Issue #29
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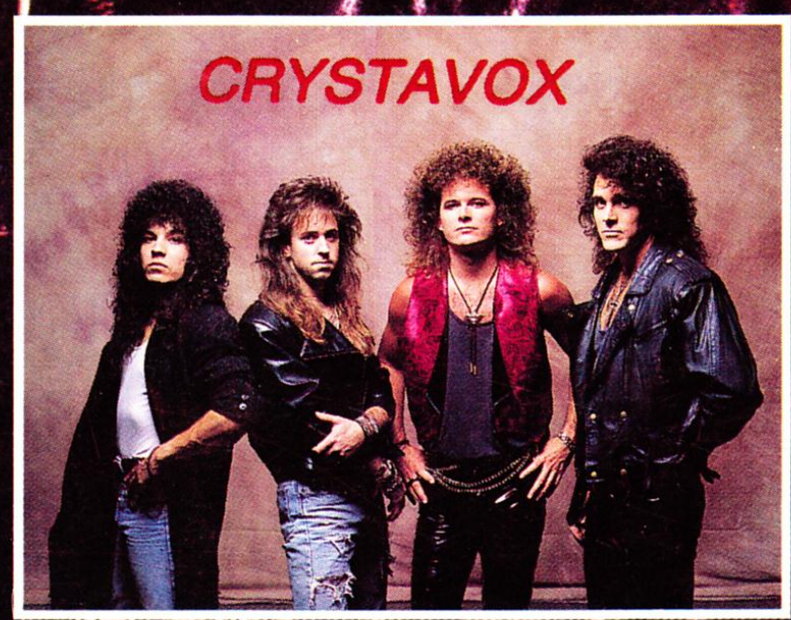
HEAVEN'S METAL

JET CIRCUS

Also:
Ransom
Crystavox
Galactic Cowboys



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Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly magazine that covers the genre of Christian heavy metal. Heaven's Metal hopes to make sure that a unique part of the body of Christ (the rockers) are connected and stay connected to the head of the body--Jesus Christ.

Special thanks this issue to: Russell Smith; Grassroots Marketing; Kathy Ervin; John Styll and the CCM Staff; Caesar Kalinowski and Wonderland; Kelly Crosby for the "Faith" artwork; Carolyn Vandiver; Lauren Holmans; Joey Knight; Seventh Seal; and Paul Q-Pek.

There are a few **Back Issues** of HM available. They are: #18 (Illinois Noize); #19 (Shout); #20 (Sacred Warrior); #21 (the rare Rage Of Angels issue); #22 (Bloodgood); #23 (Vengeance); #24 (Holy Soldier); #25 (Whitecross); #26 (Magdallan); #27 (Deliverance); and #28 (Believer). All others are sold out. Each copy is $2.95 (Foreign orders add $3 Air Mail postage).

The NEW Heaven's Metal T-Shirts are here! They are a 2-sided design with six colors in the back and two in the front. They're all on 100% cotton white shirts. They are the "deluxe" models, and sell for $15 (plus $1 postage).

The original one-sided "econo" models are still available in limited quantities. They come in red, yellow, blue, and black 50/50 shirts. These shirts are still $10 each (postage included). All t-shirts are available in M, L, & XL.

Heaven's Metal Buttons come in red, blue, and yellow and are $1 each (Plus 25 cents postage. Foreign orders send 45 cents Air Mail postage).

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Rex Carroll with his very first Tinker Toy Creation...

MUTANTS MOSH 2

HEY!

Would you pay $29.95 (plus $1 postage) for a Heaven's Metal watch?

If enough of you say "Yes," I'll get some made up. If not, I'll know it was just another idea not worth pursuing. You see, I had a sample made up, and a lot of my friends say they'd be interested in getting one if I sold them. What about you? Send in your answers with the reader's survey included in this issue.
(Actual photo of sample)

JET CIRCUS -- BREAKING THE MOLDS

By Doug Van Pelt

"Hi! I'm Ez Gomer."

Excuuuuse me... you know, God loves fax machines! They are amazing devices. You load a document into the machine upside down, dial the number you wish to send it to, and the machine feeds the document into itself, scans the images, transfers them into digital signals, and takes those signals across the telephone lines where they are translated into a heat-transfer copy of the document. Amazing! Especially when you're sending something around the world. You've got your screaming fax signals beamed up to a satellite, where it's beamed back down, across an ocean into the awaiting fax machine. So it was with the following interview with Sweden's Jet Circus. Bassist extraordinare Ez Gomer took the questions I faxed to him and faxed back the following answers.

**How did Jet Circus form? And what led you guys to creatively form this new "hybrid-form" of metal?

"Terry and I are old friends. We've known each other since the beginning of the eighties. We were both bored and tired of the heavy rock/metal stuff most bands were playing, and maybe still are playing. We wanted to do something totally fresh and different, so we got started right away with the songwriting. It all came very natural. When it comes to making music, we are both quite relaxed. We want to have fun in the first place, and we really had a good time recording this album. We think of our music as dance music when we write it, but it seems to come out a different way."

**Who has influenced your bass playing, Ez? (You really shred!!!)

"I've always been inspired by guitar players as well as bass players, but every now and then you come across a guy that seems to have the same apprehension of the bassist's role as you have yourself. That kind of influence is worth more for me than just seeing somebody do a great job. I've never been inspired by a session player. That's obvious, I know."

**What are your goals for your music?

"Our goals for our music is to have a good time, as we mentioned. But if we have to get a little bit more Freudian, we can tell you that we have a very strong belief in walking our own way. That's what makes this so funny to deal with."

**What do you mean by that?

"We don't look at how other bands have worked. We want to find our own way and be fair to ourselves and the audience. Personally, I think there often tends to be an unhealthy focusing on working for God amongst Christian people. I feel I must focus a lot more on relaxing with God, learn to know Him. Learn that He knows me. This band ain't so much about working, it's more about living."

**I think it's neat that you have such a grasp on joy and fun in the Christian life. A lot of believers aren't very free in that area. You are refreshing. Do you have any concerns or warnings about "having fun?"

"I feel I must focus a lot more on relaxing with God...This band ain't so much about working, it's more about living."

"No, not in having fun itself. But I guess you want to know if I believe some fun things can affect you bad. Yes, I do."

(**That reminds me of something I've been reading out of Chuck Swindoll's Grace Awakening: "If you claim to be a messenger of grace, if you think you are really preaching grace, yet no one is taking advantage of it, maybe you haven't preached it hard enough or strong enough. I can assure you of this: Grace-killing ministers will never have that charge brought against them. They make sure of that!" pp. 40-41)

**Considering that you live in Sweden, how do you plan to break it big in the West?

"We are very lucky to work with good people. We have big faith in our record company's way of handling the marketing.

Terry

Otherwise, our plan is: See us, and you'll love us. So, we plan to stay on the road as long as you can stand us. It's a great plan. Actually, we're on our way. We're gonna tour the U.S. in the late spring and summer if everything works out."

**How did the Harley-Davidson clothing sponsorship come about?

"We told our manager at that time that he should get us a deal with Harley, and he made it."

**Describe a typical day in your life.

"Most of our time is working and waiting. Working with music and waiting for things to really start happening. It's not at all glamorous, but we are working on it, ya know."

**How did you come to know the Lord?

"I had God knocking on my door a long time, when I finally let Him in. That's the best thing that ever happened to me. I mean it. Terry made his decision another way. He was drunk in a cellar when God made him aware of the more serious sides of life."

**Tell me about the song "Train." Is it a personal experience?

"No, not the way you probably hear it for the first time. It's a story about the gravity of making too quick decisions--and that's self-experienced."

**Why did the drummer who played on the album leave?

"The drummer didn't play on the album. That's why he left."

**Do you have a new drummer?

"Yes. We have a great new drummer, Mr. Fist. He's exactly what we needed for the band. A heavy technical drummer."

**How old are you guys? Married? Children? etc...

"Terry is 29, married to Helena, and has three kids, all girls. I'm 28, married to Ninni, and we have no kids."

**How has your audience responded live?

"So far we've been very well received, but you know, we haven't been doing a lot of gigs with this band. We want to do it all right from the beginning. We think we can afford that, because we've been doing a lot of touring before. Empty houses do you no good, just tired. But, when the time is right, which it is anyday now, it's gonna be great! And we are hungry, believe me."

**Your lyrics are very bold about Jesus, yet you market yourselves as a "mainstream" rock band... How do you expect to be received by the general public?

"I don't think the general public will react bad on our lyrics about God, because there will always be enough material for them to identify themselves with us. That's the main thing. We all take part in life, and I see nothing wrong with singing about it. Sometimes we want to sing about our faith, but we never want to be boring about it. I think the future will show what I mean."

**What particular needs do kids (your audience) have that maybe traditional ways of meeting those needs aren't working? Are kids getting real ministry from "traditional" ways? Why not? How can you meet the needs?

"Everybody needs a good time and understanding, and I think that, for the most

time, people get that in the Christian society. But, lots of people are not in any way connected to it. So, in general, I believe Christians must be out there much more. Take part in what's going on. Not every time answer with a Christian version. That's how we feel it is with White Metal. It's like, 'Finally we made our own good music. Now, let's all jump down in the box.'"

**How is the church in Sweden?

"My impression is that it is very much as in America, except over here people don't go to church by tradition."

**If you were king of the world for a day, what would you do?

"It isn't much you can do in just one day, but the official version must be: Save the world; feed the poor; peace on earth, and all of the other nice things that could convince you that I am for sure the all-time guy you always thought I was. Otherwise, I just let it all hang out. I'm sorry Doug, you should have given me a week or so. Then we could save the world and that stuff."

**How do you feel when riding a motorcycle? Why?

"I feel excited, because I am (riding)."

**What is your favorite food? Why?

"Terry is into Indonesian food. I like Cajun food a lot."

**Are Swedish and European people happy? How do they perceive the US?

"Right now so much bad is happening both inside and outside this country, so you can easily tell people aren't happy. My understanding is that European people are very positive or very negative to the USA. One wants to see all the good things, and another wants to see all bad things."

**How many Christian rock bands are there in Sweden?

"As many as there are churches."

**Any thoughts on the possibility of war in the Middle East?

"By the time this is out, we'll probably know. I don't have a clue."

**What kind of equipment do you and Terry use?

"Terry uses Gibson Flying-V guitars and Marshall 50-watt heads with 4x10 Marshall cabinets. I use mostly Rickenbacker basses, but I also use a Charvel Fusion-4 and a Yamaha RBX5. To those I use Ampeg V4, and Efekt EBS-1/EPS800 amps. We even use an Emax, which I handle on stage with foot pedals. Mr. Fist uses Yamaha Recording with Sabian cymbals."

**What kind of jobs do you two work at?

"I'm an art director. Terry runs a painting company."

**If there was one (or a few) Bible characters that described Jet Circus, who would it be?

"Solomon must have thought of Jet Circus when he wrote Ecclesiastes 3:7 and 12. There's our philosophy."

**How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for you?

"We are thankful for any prayer for us."

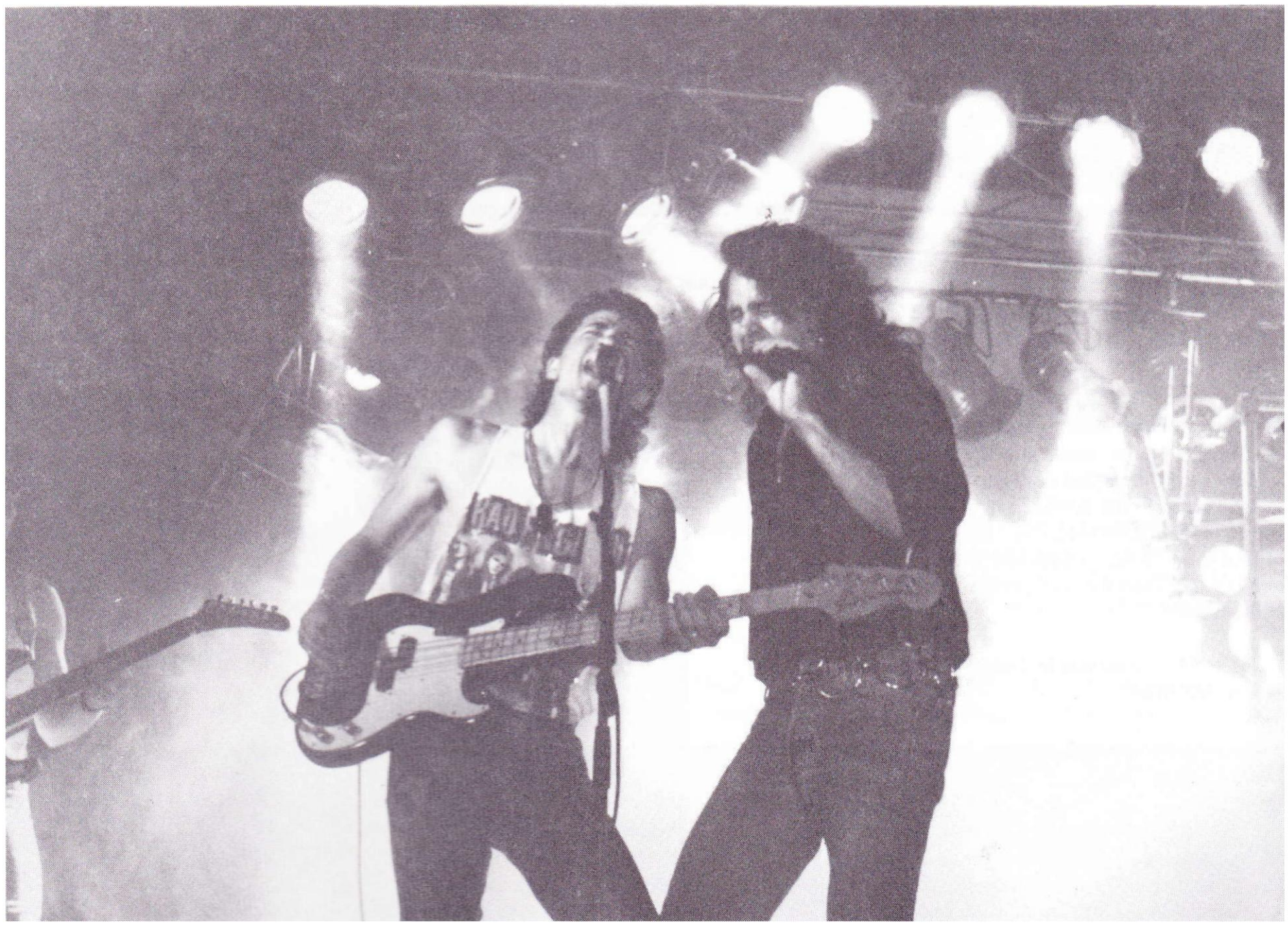
**Any final messages to close the interview with?

"Yes, we want to thank all of you everywhere that has been writing to us during this long period of working. That's really wonderful, and we long to give love and attention back to you.

"To the rest of you: Get in line or step aside--Here comes Jet Circus!" HM

CRYSTAVOX -- THE VOICE OF CHRIST

By Doug Van Pelt



Vocalist Adam Kemp beltin' it out with a little help from his friends.

As Regency recording artists Crystavox receive favorable airplay on Christian rock and metal stations around the U.S., Heaven's Metal decided it was time to catch up to this band and find out what they're about. Listen in as band leader and vocalist Adam Lee Kemp answers the questions.

**How did Crystavox get started?

"Crystavox was actually started by a kind of merging of two bands. We've been out of San Diego for a long time. The drummer, Fred (Helm), and I have been together for probably about 7 or 8 years playing in bands. We were playing in a band called 'Evidence,' where we were going through kind of a split-up at the time and were looking for a bassist. Loren (Holmquist), our rhythm guitarist, at the time played bass for this other band called 'Private Echo,' who was out of San Diego also. We basically joined the forces of the two bands. We had originally come up with a name called 'Windows And Mirrors,' and then we changed it to Crystavox about a year later. Through a bunch of changes, it evolved into what it is now. We just got Tony (Lopez) right before we went into the studio. He's the newest member. We're working with a bassist right now that's basically at this point hired. We may hire him as a full-time member later. The four of us got together, finally, just before the album came together. But, as far as Loren, Fred and I, we've been working together as Crystavox for about five years."

**I really appreciate your album statement of purpose. I think it showed a lot of maturity, especially the fact that you take into account your shortcomings and failures, yet you press on and pursue to be a vessel of the Lord. I think it's a really neat balance and maturity there.

"I wrote that for that purpose. It was kind of a disclaimer, because some of the lyrics I write can be borderline aggressive Christianity and some people get offended by that, and on the other hand, it's also kind of a disclaimer, because we are human beings and sometimes, unfortunately, bands get so looked up to and exalted in what they're doing that people forget they're human beings and that they make mistakes. Then when a skeleton comes out of the closet or some issue in their life that they've been working on, anger or whatever, pride, and they offend somebody and it gets all blown out of proportion and people forget that they make mistakes too and God loves them the way they are, the same way He loves you the way you are. It was just kind of a disclaimer to the whole thing, and how God works through all of us and we're still human beings and yet we've got a higher purpose."

**How did you come to the Lord, Adam?

"I was raised in the church...Actually it was one of those situations where I've known Who Christ was all my life. I officially or unofficially accepted Christ when I was probably about 10 years old at a camp for my first time, you know how that goes. Basically I spent most of my life up until about seven or eight years ago really basically running from God. I didn't want to have anything to do with Him, because I had gotten wrong impressions of Who God was; and, seeing the Christians that I saw, I didn't want to have anything to do with being like them. Because of that, I just rebelled and ran and ran. But, God never gave up on me, and eventually, through some good friends and through a change of churches and stuff, I kind of got a new perspective of Who Christ really was and who He wanted me to be. It's never been easy. I've had my share of struggles getting to the point where I'm at and moving on, but for me it's basically been over the long haul, day by day just growing in Christ, because I've known Christ for a long, long time. But I'm really getting to know Him more intimately lately than I ever have."

**Do you know the answer to that question for the other band members?

"Umm, Fred grew up in a family where his father was an athiest. I'm not sure if he still claims to be. He teaches Biology in high school, so he's got a lot of facts behind what he thinks he believes. His mother and sister went to the church that he and I grew up in for a long time. His mother, I believe, is a Christian. So, he's kinda grown up in a hard situation with kind of bad examples and stuff. When I ended up moving to the different church, I took Loren and Fred with me and we all kinda started growing together. Fred and I are a little more alike in a lot of those areas.

"Loren, on the other hand, also grew up in the church. He's the rhythm guitarist. He grew up in the church and his father's a pastor. Loren's one of those guys that...he leaves a long trail of being close to God behind him, and a lot of people he's ministered to. He's real soft-spoken, an extremely strong Christian. He knows where he stands with God and he never wavers in that. Some of us get, you know, where something goes wrong and we start to wonder, 'What's going on? Where's God?' Loren really never does. He's probably one of the strongest spiritual rocks in the band. For him, he's gone through some times where God seemed to pull away. I know he's told his testimony a few times. I've heard how he talks about when he went to India and did some ministry over there and, at the time, he was so high on God that anything outside of that doesn't seem right to him. He feels like maybe he's slippin'. So, he's really struggled a lot with not feeling as close as he used to, but Loren's pretty much been kind of a rock all of his life. He's got a really good foundation.

"Tony, the lead guitarist grew up in L.A. His parents, I believe, became Christians later on in life. He and his brother had different testimonies. His brother played for Recon until they broke up. So, he has a brother in the industry. He went through an interesting situation...Tony came to know Christ basically because Christ sought him out. He was basically going in the wrong direction. He used to read the Bible in a laughing way. When he was partying and doing the drugs and stuff, he'd be reading the Bible kind of just as a joke, just to read it. It started to really grab ahold of him and he kept reading it and reading it. He didn't understand any of it, but he kept reading it. Eventually through a chain of events where he ended up in jail for a D.U.I. and things like that, and at that point God just totally got ahold of a lot of his life. Over the span of about a year...I guess he originally went to Sanctuary, and that's where he started getting his roots in Christianity. From that point on, he's just really taking off, but God pretty much just sought him out. He had a real interesting testimony."

**Thanks for answering that question for all the guys.

"No problem. I hope I was as accurate as I can be."

**How do you feel about what's going on in the Middle East? Are you kind of afraid that you might get drafted?

"Me, personally...not really. I'm a diabetic, so I don't think I can be drafted. Actually, if I could, I would go. It'd be a frustrating situation, but I've always been kind of a patriot, and I think we need to back our country almost to the point where sometimes we think it's wrong, but there's such division in our country, and a country that's divided can't stand. I think our country stands for such good... I mean, the freedom and the original founding fathers and the morals that they set out, you know, for reasons of religious freedom, were so strong that I really believe in that and it's something worth fighting for. I really agree for the most part with what's happening over there and how Bush and our cabinet members are handling it. It's frustrating, cause there's a lot of different variables going on, with Israel and the different things that could happen, but I'm pretty much behind what Bush is doing. I wouldn't have a problem if they drafted me and they could take me. The rest of the guys in the band...we joke about it a lot. We'll have to see, I guess."

**What do you think is going to happen with this whole deal?

"Gosh, it's hard to tell. It'd be pure speculation. I really don't know, because we get such mis-information. I thought at first we could just wipe Iraq out, but there's so much more to it that I didn't realize at first, like the Israelis and the Arabs and their conflict. If the Israelis go after Iraq, and the Arabs go after the Israelis, then there's a major conflict. With all that happening, it's really almost impossible to guess what can happen right now. It's hard to nail down specific prophecies and stuff, but it's kind of interesting. To me, it seems like, in a capsule, prophecy is being fulfilled right before our eyes: The Berlin Wall coming

Crystavox at the carnival's Merry-Go-Round

down, the world government being set up, and the wars that are happening in the Middle East, it's really incredible."

**Do you have any words to the readers of this article that might be afraid? There are a few hundred readers overseas and then several here in the U.S. Some of 'em might be kind of fearful. Do you have any words you'd like to speak to them concerning this?

"Gosh, I'd just have to say that, through everything I've had to go through in my life: getting diabetes, and just different things that I've gone through; I've always seen God as sovereign. You don't see it right up-front, and it's real frustrating sometimes not knowing how God is going to...you know, He says He can turn the bad things into good, and make good of the worst situations, and I really believe He can do that, but I would just have to say that, 'Don't forget that God is completely sovereign and that He has not fallen off His throne, regardless of what it may look like--He's still in control. That's a vague statement, but it's totally true. To me, that kind of brings hope, to know that God has not fallen off His throne yesterday and that He's still there today, and regardless of what the world is coming to, He's in total control of it."

**Amen. Well, what's on your agenda? What's Crystavox going to be doing this Spring?

"Everybody needs to know that, no matter what they look like, feel like, or act like, He loves you."

"Well, we were trying to set up a tour. We had to postpone it a couple of times. Just recently we were going to leave March first, but it looks like we're going to have to postpone that, just because of money problems, booking problems, and things like that. Trying to do the first one, we're really sketchy on a lot of things, so we just started to work with a new booking agent. Hopefully we'll be able to get something moving for us. Our financial situations at home: we're just kind of in a hole and it's hard to just kind of take off and leave camp. So, we're working hard at trying to get a tour going. Then, probably this time next year hopefully we'll be working on a new album. We'll have to see. That's pretty much our immediate goals."

**What are some of the places that you're still planning on hitting?

"We're already booked at Cornerstone, so that's one of the highlights of the tour and one of the destination points. There's a few places in Florida, Texas, and Phoenix that we've talked to and are interested in having us. We're basically looking at going the Southern rim, but we're working with a new booking agent, who may have a different agenda, so it's hard to tell."

**How does it feel to have your song go number one (on Christian metal radio)?

"Well, it's hard for us to feel, because San Diego is really quite dead when it comes to music and music news. There's no radio stations out here that play our music. We're working hard at getting one of the seculars, and then there's a radio station that is a secular station that has a three-hour Christian spot that we're trying to get to play 'Home Again.' They said they will, but it's so hard to feel it out here, whereas across the country, if we lived somewhere where they were playing it on the radio and you could feel the people wanting it...but we just get information and papers that says it's here or there, but it's hard to feel it. I don't think it'll hit home until we get out on the road and see the people. We're definitely enjoying it. It's just hard for us to realize or to even grab ahold of what it means or what is actually happening. The statistics and things that are coming in right now are unreal."

**Is there any songs or messages on the album that you'd like to comment on?

"I put a lot in the lyrics, and they get pretty heavy and thick. I would like to make a kind of disclaimer in that: I don't want to be known as a finger-pointer, because what I'm actually doing is I'm writing a lot about my own struggles and struggles I see in friends that we could make better if we were to follow God's will in a certain way and see His blessings. I do come across sometimes, unintentionally, as a finger-pointer, like 'Get your act straight!' There again is why I wrote the disclaimer on the album purpose, because these things need to be heard. The things that are in the lyrics are strong and important, but it doesn't mean I'm doing all of them either. It doesn't mean that I walk in such massive success that I'm able to wear my Christianity out every single day too. I would say that they are important thoughts. I try real hard to stay extremely biblically-based and doctrinally correct. It's important. I know the responsibility from where I'm at is huge, and I don't want to lead anybody astray in any way, shape, or form. As far as the most important song on the album, I would say probably 'Home Again,' just because it's an overall look at what God's really like. The love that He is... He takes the dirtiest people home. I mean, He'll grab ya in His arms and just hold you when you feel like you're the most rotten, betrayed jerk. He just grabs you and says, 'Hey, you're My son.' To me, that's such an awesome feeling, when so many times I feel like, 'How could He possibly love me?' or 'How could He possibly want to use me?' but He does. Everybody needs to know that: no matter what they look like, feel like, or act like, He loves you."

**Isn't that great?!

"Yeah, that just drives it home to me again and again every time I hear that song, because it's so true."

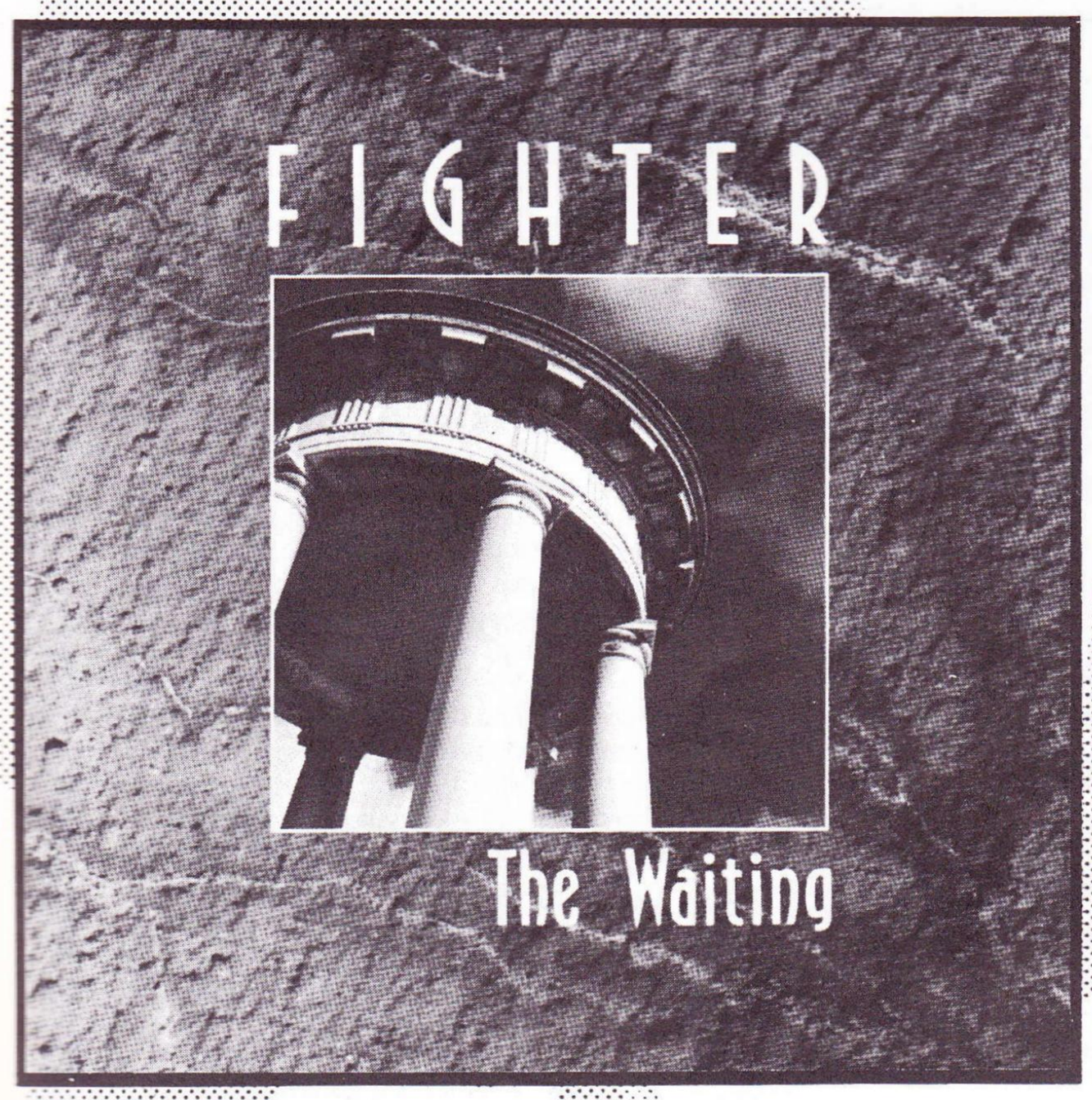
**Is there anything else that I've left out that you'd like to be addressed?

"Well, I'd say ask your readers to pray for us, because we definitely need that, like any band. In order to be successful in spiritual warfare, we need people praying. We're going through a lot of things here at home now. It's been a rough battle and Satan's just basically whipping up on us, trying to get us to do anything but go on the road. It's spiritual warfare. It's not against flesh and blood. It's something we can't battle, except by prayer and interaction in the spirit world. So, we need the prayers of everyone out there, and we sure appreciate it. We hope we can bring something in return on the road, definitely."
HM

Fighter

The Waiting

Music That Fills More Than A Room...



Featuring guitar wizard Bill Heller (formerly with Dave Ellefson of MEGADETH), *FIGHTER* is the next big success story.

Don't miss FIGHTER on tour this summer with JET CIRCUS and this fall with WHITECROSS!

WONDERLAND

The Waiting Is Over.

LISA FAXOM: RANSOM'S ROLE MODEL

By Sharon David Shubin

God has given us some traditional female role models: Deborah, Ruth, Esther, Sara... Now God may be giving us some untraditional role models. Not like those designed by vain men: created to sell milk, beer, and iron horses. Models created in the heart of a man who was nailed to a tree. Setting the standard, showing us what it takes to become a real woman.

Lisa Faxom may be just such a woman. She remembers she was once only dust at his feet. Now she can see herself becoming gold in his hand.

She's more than a tub of gloss, and a shot of Aqua Net. Godly women are always more than one bargains for. Dynamic, strong, and uniquely beautiful. Upon first impression, she appeared fragile. But I quickly traded that adjective for fearless.

We talked about the other members of Ransom. The tooth brush bandit, the kind gentleman, and the quiet one she picks on. Better known as Tony, Michael, and Randy (guitarist, bassist, and drummer, respectively).

We talked about things that make us laugh. Things that still hurt. But mostly we talked about "The Truth." Here's a taste.

**What's shakin' with the album?

"The album was finished in November. We expect to release in March. The basis of this album is matters of the heart. It's not as evangelical as some might hope. It contains real life stuff, without bangin' people over the head with Jesus. People are lookin' for solutions to their problems. We're offering a solution. Not through theology, but just through the basic simple things of the Bible."

**Why does God need Ransom, and what do you think He's doing?

"God doesn't need Ransom. I mean, in terms of spreading the Gospel. We as a band, we don't limit ourselves to spreading the Gospel, or reaching out to people, just when we're together as a band. It's a daily thing in each one of our lives. Whether we're together, or at work. Whether I'm in the mall shopping, or whatever the case may be. The Bible says, one can put 5,000 to flight and two can put 10,000 to flight. I believe we're together to strengthen what we have to offer other people.

"We love people. We get along with people. We love to be around people. We love to minister to people. Just be around people and let 'em know, gosh, you know, we do love you. We love you, and there are solutions to your problems; or, if not, we'll laugh with you. We'll have fun with you. If you're not going through a bad time, we'll have a good time with you too."

**How does God use you? Is it always evangelical, or are you sometimes counselor or teacher?

"I'd have to say counselor. God has brought be through so much. Because of all the things He's brought me through, I'm able to understand and make the connection to share with other people. I'd have to say teacher too. It seems a lot of young girls come up to me, and they always have questions about the Bible."

**Do you get fan mail from other women? What kind of questions do they ask?

"As far as fan mail goes, it's about 50/50. The girls want to know what it's like, being a female singer in a Rock & Roll band. I tell them, if that's where God wills you to be, through trial or tribulation, then stay there. But if you feel something way down in your heart, and you know deep, deep down in your heart that God doesn't want you to do this, yet you don't want to face it--give it up! Because you're not gonna be happy, and more than likely, nothing's ever gonna become of it.

"You know, I struggled with it. Especially the first three years we were together. I struggled whether or not this was my calling, or a part of what God has in store for me. Sometimes I'd look at this as being a stepping stone toward something bigger. Not necessarily in the music ministry.

"There were times I'd just be in my room, and I'd just cry "Lord!" Not because we were going through hard times, but because I wanted to be sure.

"Finally things started happening... You know! I never really got a direct answer! (we laugh) Now that I think about it!"

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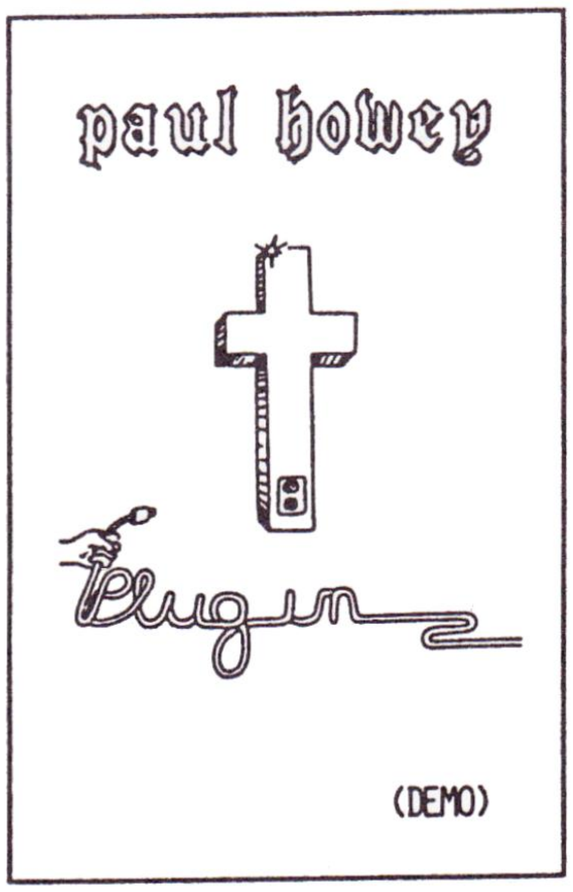

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Keith Day
GOSPEL METAL
Magazine

"the tunes...rock out with conviction and intensity. Very enjoyable, well written, and produced--worth purchasing."
Mark Hodges
THE OBLIGATOR

"...this is good stuff... creative and energetic. The lyrics have a clear message of hope and to tell you the truth, the clarity of the vocals was refreshing. The entire project was well done, right down to the production."
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**You as a front-man. You see everything around you in the clubs. You see men who've been fed one idea of women. Then women who've got an expectation of who and what you should be. As a godly woman, when you step up into that position, what do you feel your responsibilities are to the role God has handed you?

"I want people to not only respect me, I just want men to respect women in general. And, I want to let the girls know: It doesn't matter what you look like; or where you come from. You can do anything your mind is capable of conjuring up. You can do anything! It's all in the positive. I definitely want to be a good role model. I don't want anybody to misunderstand what I'm all about. But people do... sometimes (in clubs) girls walk by and say to me, "whore?!?"

**Well, they're not calling you names. It's the enemy in them, accusing the Lord in you.

"Yeah... 'Cause I'm just a regular, ordinary person."

**How does Jesus hold on to Lisa, and keep her going?

"It's that scripture, He'll never leave me or forsake me. I have this child-like faith, no matter where I am, I know that Jesus is always with me. He's always with me! I know from the depths of my heart (she smiles), He's always there."

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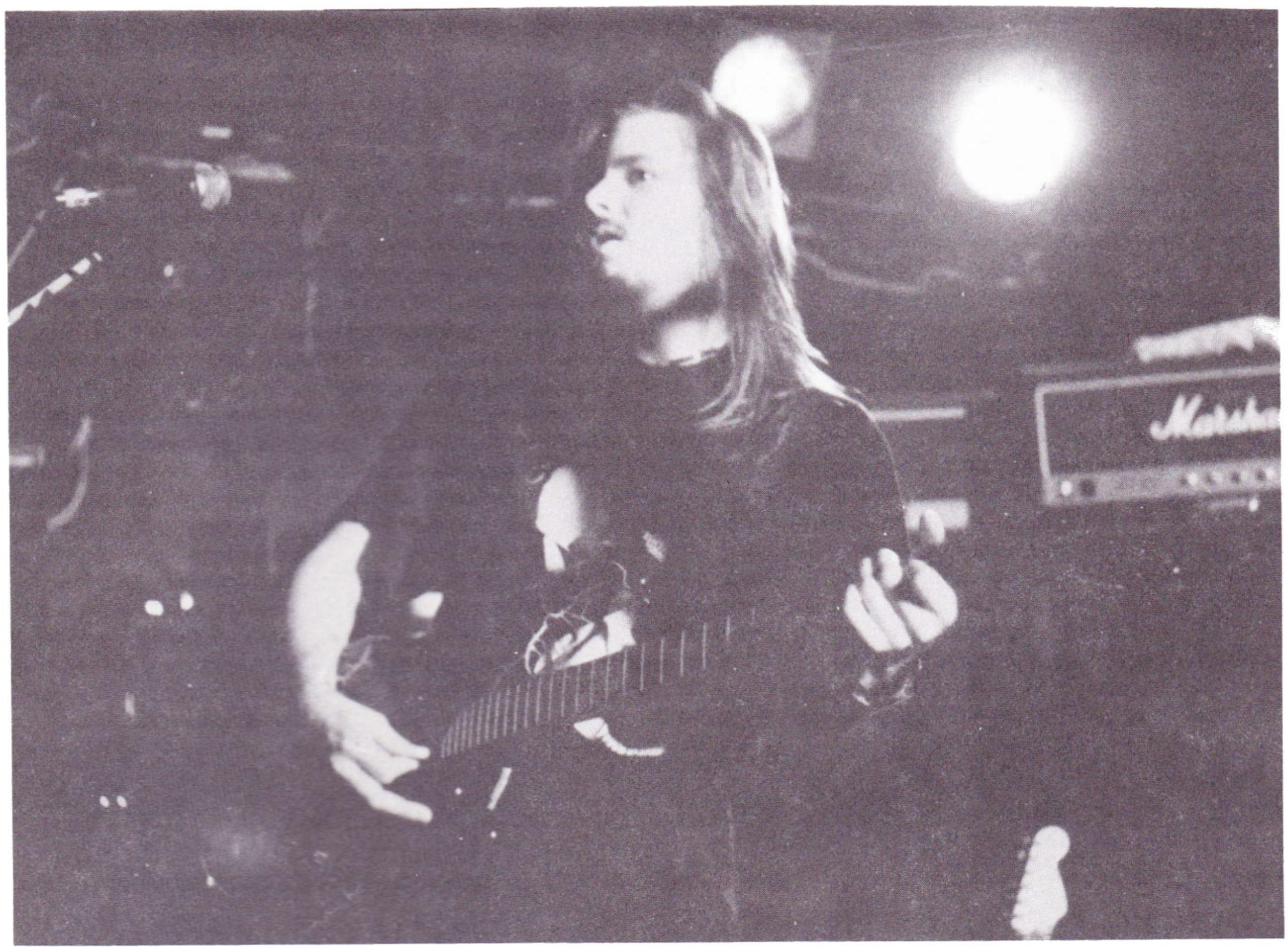
GALACTIC COWBOYS -- THE MEN, THE MADNESS, THE MOON

By Doug Van Pelt



Guitarist Dane Sonnier (Photo by Doug Van Pelt)

Just who are the Galactic Cowboys and what are they doing? Like everyone else on planet Earth, this question has plagued me day and night. After several sleepless nights though, I had the chance to interview the four men who make up this interstellar unit. After hearing the answers to my questions, and hearing the band's unique oral version of public school lunch menus, I'm still left wondering. Who are these guys?

"Hello, I'm Monty," says the red mop-headed bass player. "I guess I'm 31 now. Let's see: I'm married. I've got one dog. I'm a sports fanatic."

"And a member of the Manson family," adds vocalist Ben Huggins. "My age is 30. I'm married with children. The only children in the band. I've got two kids: Micah, who's eight years old; and Shane, who's six. I've been married for 10 years now. I've got a good woman."

"I'm Dane," says the guitarist (who looks like Hollywood's version of Lucifer when under dark red stage lighting.) "I'm 21, single."

"I'm Alan," says the Leon Wilkerson (Lynyrd Skynyrd bassist) look-alike with long, dirty blond hair and a tall black chimney-sweep hat. "I'm single, 24, white, 6'4", green eyes, Social Security Number 500-82-2472, and I love jellybeans."

**What's your band address, for people to send jellybeans to you?

"I was hoping they'd throw 'em at me, but..."

"Thanks Alan!" the rest of the guys say.

"That could happen man," warns Monty.

"That kind of thing could put someone's eye out!" shouts Ben, with a phony authoritative voice.

**Give me the basic story of how you guys started.

"Well," says Monty, "The Awful Truth broke up, and we said, 'What are we gonna do?' We answered, 'There's nothing else to do, but get out and do it.' So, we went lookin' for people and ran into these guys."

"What happened," says Ben, "is I had a truck, and they needed someone to haul equipment, and they said, 'Ben, you've got a truck, you can haul equipment.'"

"Which was perfect for him," adds Alan.

"Not a very in-depth story there," comments Dane.

**Where did most of you guys grow up?

"Grew up in Springfield, Missouri," says Alan.

"Up in Louisiana," says Dane, "a small town called Venton."

"It's a one horse town," comments Ben. "Actually a one gator town. I lived most of my life in Duncanville (Texas). I was born in Cleveland."

**Did Michael Jackson write a song about you?

"Exactly!" answers Ben (as the rest of the guys join in an impromptu version of the chorus).

"Phoenix, Arizona," says Monty. "I went to college in Springfield, Missouri. That's where the Springfield connection comes in. I used to go and see Alan play in bands."

"Alan was like, 12 then," says Ben.

**What brought you guys to Houston?

"The Holy Spirit," answers Ben.

"Work," says Alan.

"We had met Doug (Pinnick) in Springfield, and King's X," says Monty. "They were 'Sneak Preview' then. That was the name of King's X. Our lives were basically going

nowhere so... (looks to Alan) Should we tell him?"

"Yeah, go ahead," says Alan.

"No, don't do it!" shouts Ben.

"Well," continues Monty, "we played for Morgan Cryar. Me and Alan."

**You too, eh?

"That's the deal. We enjoyed it."

**They had some okay tunes back then. I used to request the Morgan Cryar tune "Pray In The USA" at King's X shows, just to embarrass 'em (For the guys in King's X once were Cryar's backup band).

"Oh man, wrong thing to do," says Ben.

"Not a good thing to do," agrees Alan.

**Well, tell me about the Geffen story.

"They signed us without ever seeing us play," says Ben.

"They saw us practice," explains Monty.

"They've never seen a live show," says Dane.

"He (Gary Girsch) came to a practice," says Monty. "Sam brought him in. It didn't seem like he really liked us that much. He left and we made a demo and sent it to him. He just loved it."

"I'm sitting at home watching the Superbowl," recalls Dane, "and Monty calls me up and says, 'How's it feel to be a Geffen recording artist?' I'm like, 'Oh man, my team loses the Superbowl, but I get a record deal.' You can't beat that."

"This year I'm gonna call 'em all at halftime," says Monty, "and say, 'We're still Geffen recording artists...just no album."

"The album is coming out," says Alan, "trust me."

**When did you finish recording it, in June?

"We started in February," says Monty.

"Well actually," adds Ben, "if you count the demo, because we're using some tracks off of that, it'd be November. Then, the big bulk started in February. It's pretty much all mixed. It's still going on."

"We took off during the summer," says Alan, "while King's X was recording 'Faith Hope Love,' and then, right after they got out, we went back in and recorded four more songs. Then, three weeks later, we went back in and mixed for three or four weeks."

"Now," says Ben, "we're gonna go back in and mix a little longer, after the tour. We're going to England, ya know." (in his best Ringo Starr imitation)

**A dream come true.

"All this is a dream come true," says Monty.

Photographic proof that The Galactic Cowboys are not a new band, but only Larry Norman's latest outfit. (Vocalist Ben Huggins)

"It really is," says Ben. "I mean, I don't think there's anything that's happened to us that...you know...there's a lot of things that we do that we don't enjoy, like going out on tour last year in a station wagon, but I mean, we had some good times in that station wagon. We've got the bus happening. Alan's got some signature drum sticks and, I mean, things are really happening."

"Yeah," boasts Alan, "I'm a rock star now."

"He's a rock star!" Monty screams.

**Geffen's pretty happenin.' Are they throwin' a budget behind you guys, like videos and stuff?

"(huff, puff) Yeah!" says Ben (in his best "Wayne's World" imitation).

**No way!

"Way!" retorts Ben. "They're behind us all the way. We've talked to like three people from Geffen. Mostly we've talked to Gary Girsch, who is our rep. He's like knocked out. He falls all over us when he's here. He brought two people down from promotions last time he came. Everyone we've talked to has been behind us."

**What do they think of you guys being Christians?

"Well, we stay out of trouble," says Ben. "They don't have to worry about us using the f-word on television."

"On Saturday Night Live," adds Monty, "if they wanna put us on it."

"Or some kind of acceptance speech: 'We're really f-in glad to be f-in here, man," jokes Ben (as he imitates Guns 'n' Roses at last year's Grammies)

"I don't know," answers Monty. "Really, we haven't talked about it."

"It's an understood thing," says Ben. "It's really weird."

"We write the songs and do what we do," says Monty, "and they seem to like that, and hopefully our lives are good examples."

"Effecting them someway," adds Dane.

"And we never went in and went, 'Look man, we're Christians, and you better understand that from the beginning," adds Ben.

**Are you gonna throw in the fun stuff, like the cow moo-ing and the rooster crowing and all that (on the album)?

"Oh man, yes!" declares Ben.

"You got it," adds Monty. "It'll be there."

"That's part of Galactic Cowboys, man," concludes Ben.

"I don't think there's any platitude or truism that we could throw out that would be a theme for people to mold their lives around."

"We're trying to figure out some way to reproduce that on stage without tapes," adds Dane.

"Without actually bringing a cow out on stage," finishes Ben.

"Well, if that's what it took," laughs Dane.

"Well, ZZ-Top did it," says Ben, "but we don't wanna be like them. On the Tejas tour, they took a big Longhorn Steer, an owl, and some snakes, and stuff like that."

"Did the cow come out from under the drum riser, like the Judas Priest thing with the Harley?" asks Dane (as the interview seriously digresses).

**Tell me a little bit about the album. Is it conceptual at all...or is there any sort of themes that kind of prevail?

"Well, it's not really a concept album," answers Dane. "There's a concept behind it. We're just doing stuff on who we are. There's no main topic. There'll probably be a few songs about space and stuff."

"We're galactic," explains Ben, "so there'll be at least one space song on the record."

**Do you have like a vision statement or a goal with your band?

"To be the best that we can be," says Alan (as the band starts singing in harmony--'Be all that we can be, we're the Galactic Cowboys') "I don't know that we're much of an issue kind of band. I mean, there could be cases of that, I think. We're just really out to have fun and have a good time...and hope everyone else does too."

"It's just an extension of our lives," explains Dane. "It's who we are. Everything: all the comical stuff, that's all part of us. It's no different. We act like that if we were all four going to the grocery store together. It's the same: knocking each other around and breaking lights and stuff (laughter)."

"Accidentally now," cautions Ben. "We're not vandals. We're just clumsy, alright?"

"Hopefully, for me," says Monty, "maybe we can break some of this typical rock star image type stuff. Maybe be somewhat of a difference to people...all that just being through who we are. I think we would be the same way whatever we were doing. God's just allowed us to do this for a living, and we're really thankful."

**Do you do anything else on the side?

"No, this is pretty much it now," says Monty.

**You guys are privileged.

"Yes, we are," says Monty.

"Ben used to be a blacksmith by the way," interjects Alan.

"For six years," clarifies Ben. "I was a horseshoer, who happened to have a forge. (At that moment people come and unload the band's equipment) I hope you guys are roadcrew, taking our stuff out!"

**What's the tentative title for the album?

"I guess at this point 'Ranch On Mars' would probably be out," says Monty.

"We were gonna call it 'Hi-Ho Cinema!'" says Alan.

**How do you guys work in the band, like how do you make decisions?

"Usually Alan makes all the decisions," says Ben, "and we tell him to shut up." (laughs)

"Well," ponders Monty, "I'm trying to think of what kind of decisions we have to make, like what time practice is. At this point, we haven't had a lot of decisions to make."

"Sam makes a lot of decisions for us," explains Ben. "Have we mentioned Sam yet? Sam (Taylor) is our manager. We love him dearly."

**Is he like the papa for the Wilde Silas bunch?

"Yeah, Papa Silas," says Alan. "He's our sugar daddy." (laughs)

**What are your touring plans?

"We're on a small tour in Texas opening for King's X right now," explains Dane. "After this we're going over to Europe with King's X, to play one show with 'em in London."

"We're going over for a one-nighter," says Ben.

"And staying for five days," finishes Dane.

"What's fun is we're going over," says Ben, "and get to watch a show the first night. King's X is playing with Anthrax and Iron Maiden, then we do the show at the Astoria, and then we do press...and hopefully get a buzz thing going."

"By buzz," explains Monty, "he means attention."

**Oh, I thought he meant drugs... So, what's the music scene in Houston like?

"It's cool," comments Dane. "It's real limited, as far as places to play for us. It's growing a lot."

"It's picking up," adds Alan, "now that Sam's put out the word."

**Kemper Crabb told me that all the hottest live bands in Houston right now are the Christian bands.

"I go to Kemper's church," says Ben.

**Is there any specific messages that you want to get out to your audience as far as Heaven's Metal, a Christian heavy metal magazine...is there anything you want to communicate to them, or your audience in general, that you haven't already?

"Let me say that I don't think there's any platitude or truism that we could throw out that would be a theme for people to mold their lives around," says Ben. "We just...I don't know. What do you think Monty?"

"Well," answers Monty, "hopefully we're artists that are trying to do their art and do it as well as they can and live their lives like God wants 'em to."

"Hopefully we're artists that are trying to do their art and do it as well as they can and live their lives like God wants 'em to."

**As far as on-the-record with you guys, I believe that the chief end of art is not evangelism, but, that art glorifies God, period--good art does.

"You've been talking to Kemper haven't you?" asks Ben.

**I read Francis Schaeffer.

"I agree," says Dane. "I think what we do is an extension of who we are. We're Christians and we all believe. We all follow and attempt to live our lives the way that Christ did. That's where it's at, really. That's where we're coming from. That's what we're trying to attain."

**What you're doing with Wilde Silas is like a dream come true for a lot of us. I mean, you're getting a chance to...

"Oh yeah, we've been truly blessed in the true sense of the word," continues Dane. "Two years ago I was in a cover band that was doing King's X songs."

"He also played with another guy, too," says Alan. "Do you know Dennis Welch?"

**Yeah.

"That's what got me to Houston," explains Dane.

**What are your influences musically?

"A lot of different people," says Monty. "I grew up listening to Gospel quartets, like The Happy Goodmans... I grew up singing with my family. I like--we all like--a lot of different things. I think we all like stuff with melody."

"That was the one thing that was really important to us," says Ben.

"Melody and intensity," elaborates Dane.

"Yeah," continues Ben, "I mean, it's the combination of the two: the heaviness with the sweet melody. It's like, a lot of what makes us tick. It's not everything, but it's real important."

"It's fun for me," says Alan, "because I get to do every kind of music I like, basically."

"Yeah," adds Dane, "there's not a base that we don't cover, as far as our favorites go. I mean, we all get the chance to express ourselves musically the best way that we can, and we love it. There's no influence that I don't get to express in this band, and I'm sure that everyone else gets to do the same thing as well."

"In other words," Ben says, "if we began to list everything that we've ever liked in our lives, the list would be so long. It's just whatever you hear. When you stand out there and listen to us, what you hear is what you can get out of it. I think that's real important. Just because we had one thing in mind when we wrote the song, you may have something totally different in mind, like, 'Well, that sounds like so-and-so.'"

**You guys sound exactly like Paul Simon meets Gorky Park meets Dino Kartsonakis.

"Exactly the point I'm trying to make," laughs Ben. "We don't want to be pigeon-holed."

"No labels," affirms Alan.

**Any funny stories?

"Well, there was that trip last year to Philadelphia," says Ben.

"The whole last year's tour was a funny story," says Dane. "Traveling around the East Coast in a station wagon with all four of us, packed full of luggage, going from city to city, driving ourselves, packing, unloading the truck, setting up, tearing down ourselves, doing the show, driving all night to the next gig... I mean, it was an experience."

**If the Congress of the United States said one of the Galactic Cowboys members was going to be president, which one of you would it be, and why?

"Monty," says Dane, "because he handles the money."

"I don't know what money has to do with it," says Monty, "because we don't have any."

"Basically, we all agree that Monty's the leader," says Alan, "because he's oldest, and for his knowledge and wisdom."

**What's the velocity of a swallow carrying a coconut?

"Excuse me," asks Ben, "is that like some Freudian thing?"

"I didn't think swallows could pick coconuts up," questions Monty.

"Well, when you take the ratio of the wingspan perpendicular to the approach and the bone structure," suggests Alan.

"You're talking about someone that swallows a coconut?" asks Ben the comedian.

**So you're still picking tunes for the new album? Do you know how many cuts are gonna be on it?

"They're long songs," answers Ben, "so I don't know how many songs will be on it. We've got one song on there that's about 11 and a half minutes."

**This demo I heard has four songs on it. There's this song on it called "How Could I Have Been So Blind." Would you like to elaborate on it?

"Well, I'll say this," answers Monty, "it was written right after The Awful Truth broke up. It could apply to anybody that feels like they knew what was going on, and realized that they were deceived."

"I don't think it's any kind of spite thing," says Alan. "Monty was just writing how he felt. It's basically a story."

"It's a song about being deceived," says Monty."

**Well, I think I've kept you long enough.

So, there you have it reader. Do you understand these spacemen better than I do? Maybe you could send in more questions that you'd like to ask 'em. Go ahead, the space industry will be de-centralized soon anyway. HM

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WHAT TESTAMENT SEZ:

By Doug Van Pelt

Testament l to r: Eric Peterson, Alex Skolnick, Chuck Billy, Greg Christian, and Louie Clemente.

The ongoing "What so-and-so Sez" column brings us to one of secular thrash metal's most popular band's: Testament. Listen in as drummer Louie Clemente sez what's on his mind.

**I want to talk about your latest album, "Souls Of Black," a little bit. I noticed you didn't write many of the songs, but I wanted to go ahead and ask you some questions about lyrical direction and stuff. What are you basically trying to say with the this album?

"Well, we're just talking about real-life things, like...in 'Legacy' and 'New Order,' we talked about fiction and fantasy-type things, but on 'Practice What You Preach' and 'Souls Of Black,' we talk about things that happen in everyday life, things we see as wrong in our country, or we see that's bad about people, and we talk about it. It's just real life stuff. We're not saying anything's bad about our country. We love our country, but there's just little things in it that we need to fix, like the song 'Malpractice,' which is about our hospital system."

**I notice a lot of the commentary on real life and stuff. Do you guys have any answers or hope to offer?

"No, we're just talking about it. We're not trying to say anything. We're just talking about the situation. 'Seven Days Of May' is about China, you know, Tennemin Square. 'Love To Hate' is about what's going on in the Middle East. When I was young, I didn't listen to the news or read the paper. I just listened to music all day long, and music works as a teacher, so if you can let people know what's going on through music... We're not preaching anything, we're just talking about the situation. There's just all kinds of stuff on there that we're just talking about. People just have to read the lyrics. We really don't explain our songs too much anymore, because, you know, people take 'em as they will. Those are like weird questions when people tell you to explain a song. I mean, it's like, 'Read the lyrics.'"

**Well, what does the heart with the crown of thorns (featured on the album cover artwork) signify for you?

"The whole album cover is described in the song 'Face In The Sky.' It says, 'Shadows glow from the full moon light/ Hear clouds cry, it's so insane/ Souls hold on to the key of life'--which is the heart--'See how it's bleeding from the pain.' It's just the typical thing that we're talking about. We're talking about life. The heart resembles life, and it's bleeding from pain, showing hurt, and feelings of people."

**There's some pretty intense pain going on in the world.

"Yeah, right now there's all kinds of s*** going on. Obviously we can't fix it. We're not the type of people to go out and fix it. We're just talking about it."

**I don't think that an artist is compelled... Some artists have different functions, you know.

"We're the kind of artists where we just talk about it. Other artists talk about it and go start rallies or something. We don't have time or money for that. We probably would if we did."

**Are you guys starting to make decent money now?

"We don't make lots of money. We make enough to live."

**That's a privilege to be able to do music for a living.

"Totally. We feel totally lucky, but then again, we worked very hard for where we are, so we deserve it. I'm not going to lie about that. Anybody who knows Testament knows we worked our a**es off. I mean, four albums in four years, and we're touring all the time. We've worked hard for what we have. We're not one of those bands that just did one album and made it. We haven't made it, and there's still a long way to the top, but we're willing to work hard for it. If it happens, great. If it don't, it don't."

**Who is Jesus Christ to you?

"Excuse me?"

**Who is Jesus Christ to you?

"Wow! What kind of question is that? That's heavy. (Turns to somebody in room and says, "He asked me, 'Who is Jesus Christ to me.'") That's heavy dude. I don't know, I'm Catholic. I don't know. What kind of question is that? He saved us from our sins."

**How does He affect you personally? (pause) I know it's a heavy-duty question.

"No, it's not heavy-duty, it's just I don't think about it that much. I mean, I do

believe there's a God. Definitely. I was brought up that way and I believe it. I'm Italian and I'm Catholic, and I wear a cross around my neck at all times, but I'm not a practicing Catholic. I don't think there's anything really wrong with that in the times that we're living in now. I mean, the years have changed. When I was younger, I received my communion and confession and went to church, went to Catechism, went to Sunday School, I did all that; but, uh, I don't know. I don't know what to say."

**I don't mean to put you on the defensive or anything, but I'd kinda like to ask...

"Are you Catholic? Are you a Christian?"

"I'm Catholic and I wear a cross around my neck at all times, but I'm not a practicing Catholic."

**Yeah, I'm a Christian. I was kinda brought up in a Baptist church. I've been to like Catholic Sunday School or something like that before...

"One thing you could say about Testament is that we never write stuff that is anti-God or anti-religion, you know what I mean? We've never been sticker-ed for an album or anything. We have a song on 'Practice What You Preach' called 'Envy Life,' which some people, who don't know about our music, think it's talking about the devil or something, but we're not. We're talking about somebody who is getting involved in witchcraft and stuff like that. It's just a story about it. We don't practice that stuff. And then again, we have songs like 'Sins Of Omission,' which is anti-suicide. We just have all those songs where we're on a total positive attitude at all times. Like I said, we only talk about things that are going on in the world."

**There's some things that you have certain standards that you don't wanna cross..

"We don't try. We don't think about what we're doing, we just don't do things like that."

**Yeah, it's just part of who you are.

"We don't drink because we don't want to drink. We don't drink because somebody tells us we can't. I'm just making an example. We do what we wanna do. We don't drink, because that's our preference. We don't drink. We're not the kind of band that does drugs and gets all messed up and lays on the ground. We're not like that. It's our preference. We're not those kind of people. We do what we want."

**So, you try to basically be a real person most of the time?

"We're all...all five of us are real people at all times."

**It kind of comes through in some of your lyrics.

"I think we're a real, true metal band. We're very true to our fans, and we're true to our music."

**That's one thing I think that's really good about thrash and speed, is it kind of caters to an unpretentious, this-is-who-we-are type mentality.

"I mean, people that mention censorship and the whole genre of it. They look at only the bad things in metal. They don't see the good things in metal. Testament have either been told this or received letters...about 10...about a situation on our last record. They were thinking of committing suicide and they listened to 'Sins Of Omission,' and 'The Ballad,' and it changed their mind. How come they don't look at the good side, like that? Why do they take that one bad thing, categorize it with metal, and then condemn the whole metal thing. They don't look at the good ones. I mean, there's odds in everything."

**Censorship kind of comes from fear and ignorance. I'm kind of against censorship myself, because it's like: Who's to say that the things that I talk about won't be censored tomorrow?

"Exactly. It's gotta end somewhere, or it'll be endless. The First Amendment--that's what I think we should go by, but I do think that albums should be sticker-ed. Like you rate a movie. Like they say, 'This movie is rated R. You can't get in without an adult, unless you're 13,' or something like that. Albums are similar to that. I think movies are probably even worse, because movies are visual. But that's cool--censorship in that way, to sticker an album to warn people. That's cool. There has to be a line drawn somewhere. There's two sides to everything. You can't go too overboard, but then again you can't censor it."

**If I disagree with something, I'd rather put up another viewpoint next to it, instead of just outlawing it altogether. Well, kind of getting back to Jesus Christ, what do you think about: If He really is God, what do you think about the responsibility of a person to be a quote-unquote "Good Catholic" or to be a real dedicated...

"I think if you believe in Him, then you're a Catholic, or whatever. I don't know that much about religion. I just know what I am. I'm a Catholic, and I believe in God, so there. That's what I, you know...He's supposed to be looking over us at all times, right? If He knows I believe in Him, then I'm okay."

**Well, I personally am a Christian. Heaven's Metal is a magazine that covers Christian heavy metal mostly, bands like Vengeance...

"I don't know. What's the difference between Christians and Catholics? I don't know."

**Well, there's no difference, and then there's...it's like the difference between Christians and Baptists, you know? You can be caught up in the Baptist or Catholic thing and not really know God--you just know about religion. Cause like, the Bible says, "Even the demons believe in Jesus, and they fear and tremble Him," because they know Who He is; but the difference between a demon and a Christian is: a Christian follows Jesus...a Christian believes in Him, but he also puts faith in Him and tries to follow Him.

As far as salvation goes, salvation is all done by grace, which means you don't have to work for it. You don't have to be a goody two-shoes. You just have to receive the goodness that Jesus gave us, you know, through His death. And when we receive that, usually,

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just like when we fall in love with somebody, we start doing things to make 'em happy. But we don't have to do things to receive that love, you know. He loves us, and we kind of do things in response to that love--if that makes sense.

"Yeah, it makes sense."

**It's not like we have to work for our salvation, but...so that's kind of where I come from. I really...Jesus has meant so much to me that I wanna basically give my whole life to Him, cause I kinda feel like, if God is God and I'm a human being, if I really believe Who He is, then basically I owe my life to Him, or I should kind of reverence Him for Who He is kind of thing.

"Yeah, I understand. I mean, I believe that if some people feel that way and are going to be that way, then that is their choice. I have nothing against that."

**Have you ever heard of the band Vengeance?

"No."

**They're a speed metal band from L.A. THey kind of have a style similar to Slayer.

"Really? What, do they talk about different things?"

**Yeah, they mostly...Most of their songs are taken out of the Bible.

"So it's like, a band that plays heavy like Slayer, but talks about Christian things?"

**Yeah.

"I've never heard of 'em."

**They're pretty cool. They're really good. A lot of Christian bands were kind of lame 10 or 15 years ago, but now...

"What do you think about Stryper and what they did? You know how they used to always be real religious, and they used to throw Bibles out in the audience, and stuff like that; and now they say they're not like that anymore. They're playing a totally different kind of music. I mean, what's that? What are they doing?"

**Personally, I think that there's room...a Christian can talk about anything, ya know? He can talk about China or Tennemin Square and he can talk about salvation and God. So, I think there's room to sing about tons of different things. I don't condemn them for doing what they're doing or anything. I would be sad... I would feel like I lost a brother if they started killing people and drinking and partying and everything and leading kids to do the same thing. But, I wouldn't condemn 'em or...I don't feel like they've really changed a whole lot, because they never really were super, super bold and upfront, at least the songs on their album, most of them weren't a lot about God, just a few of 'em were. Now they just don't have any about God.

Has anybody ever talked to you about, basically said, you know, "If you don't follow Jesus, you'll go to hell," and stuff like that?

"I don't believe that."

**What do you think will happen to people who reject Christ?

"I don't know."

**Well, anyway, do you ever read the Bible much?

"No. Parts of it, when I was in school."

**It's a cool book. I really get into it.

"I've just never been the person to read that much. I've only read one book my whole life."

**Well, I've basically ran through most of my questions.

"Okay, thanks a lot for interviewing me."

**I hope you have a good time for the rest of the tour and have a safe trip home and all that. Take care, Louie. HM

Paradox

One of Christian music's untapped wells--**Paradox**--has recorded a song for another sampler album. The band went to Nashville and re-recorded "We Are The Temple," which will be featured on an upcoming Star Song compilation. The tentative title will be "Brave New Music." Guitar virtuoso Fernando Hernandez has been endorsed by Zion guitars. The band recently opened up for Blue Oyster Cult in San Antonio, Texas; and has won a radio promotions contest co-sponsored by Nancy A. Reece Promotions and Heaven's Metal. The band's song "Power And Glory" will be featured on the radio sampler CD Reece sends out to stations (which is not for sale, but you can call your local Christian station and request it).

Speaking of cool stuff you can't buy but can request from your local station, Nancy A. Reece's latest sampler has an absolutely awesome thrash/rap tune called "My God" that just shreds! The name of the band is **Audio Adrenaline**. I played the tune for J.R. Montgomery of Seventh Seal (who was the first band I'd heard do a rap/thrash tune), and he liked it. Hey Mikey! The first verse says, "Buddha was a fat man, so what!/ Mohammed thought he had a plan, I guess not!/ A Hindu god is an, old cow!/ You could be a god if ya, knew how!/ My God died on the cross/ My God died on the cross/ My God died on the cross/ But He lives!" If you'd like to write the band, write: Bob Herdman, KCC Box 616, Grayson KY 41143.

The "**Mystery Band**" reviewed in the last issue is now known! The band is called **Christopher**, and can be reached at: 1901 W. Jean Ave, Lincoln NE 68522. The band's tape is definitely worth checking out. I mean, "Look Out (The Devil's Gonna Getcha)" is a song that has to be heard.

Creed and **Charizma** both played at the Master Of Rock Festival in Basel, Switzerland on October 19th. Guy Weideli reports that Charizma guitarist Goran Nikolausson spoke to the audience with a German translator, gave an altar call, and about 20 people came forward!

Lightforce is currently working on a 6-song EP called "Brutal Warfare."

Guitarist Dave Moore and drummer Tommy Bozung of **Zion** are contemplating the continuation of Zion after Rex Scott's departure. Those who have heard early Zion material may remember that Rex can sing like AC-DC's Bon Scott or Brian Johnson. What does this mean? It means that Rex is the new singer for **X-Sinner**! Yes, that's right. Dave Robbins is out and Rex Scott is in. X-Sinner is in the studio and will have an album out (tentatively) in June.

The Agape Festival will feature a Pure Metal stage, with several PM artists, including: **Seraiah, Bride, Novella, and Xalt.** The Celebration Festival in Michigan will also have a metal event. The first night of the two-night fest will be metal night. For both of these festivals, this is the first-ever metal event.

Detritus is another English speed metal band on the Edge Records label with Seventh Angel. Pure Metal will license its product in the U.S. as well. The tentative title for this March release is "Perpetual Defiance."

Nina Llopis of **The Lead** is finishing up her debut solo album "No Shadow Of Turning." It will be a definite departure from The Lead's material, leaning more towards an alternative direction. Filled with drony guitar sounds and progressive, dancy tracks, Nina handles all the songwriting, lead vocals, and acoustic and electric guitars. Nina says, "The album is an album of healing for me. Some of the songs were hard to finish, because of the emotions that were involved in them." It should be out immediately.

Knightriot, featured on "Underground Metal 2," has just released a 6-song cassette, entitled "Beware The Knight." For info, write: PO Box 11244, Glendale CA 91206-7244.

Heaven's Metal's "Cool Tunes" tape received a 4-K review in Kerrang! (Issue #308). The most recent issue has an article on **The Galactic Cowboys**. The new Rolling Stone has a big article on **King's X**, which focuses on the Christian faith of the band members.

Randy Rocker, a staff member of Take A Stand, has started a Public Relations type firm, called Rockers Writes. If your band needs publicity--like regular press releases to the media, bio's, connections to secular press, and product serviced to radio stations and/or press--get in touch with Randy. He works with R.E.X. Records, **No Laughing Matter**, Z-Rock Magazine, Heaven's Metal, Take A Stand, and CCM. To contact him, write: PO Box 10711, Scottsdale AZ 85271; or call (602) 947-1223.

Look for the new **Magdallan** record in April.

Wonderland Recording artist **The Stand** is filming a video. The band got a bargain deal on the package, which will be shot on film...should be pretty lush.

The greatest band in the universe--the legendary **Arkangel**--are re-forming and negotiating with a large Christian label.

Tourniquet's drummer Ted Kirkpatrick recently flew to Chicago to narrate an educational video on the subject of Alternatives to Dissection. The film, sponsored by the National Anti-Vivisection Society, will be shown to high school students across the nation. While it is illegal in many schools for teachers to fail students who refuse to dissect animals in Biology class, this video will educate teachers and students to the alternatives to dissection, like films and computer displays. Kirkpatrick will be introduced on the video as the drummer for Christian metal band Tourniquet, so literally thousands of high schoolers will be exposed to this band! Praise the Lord! The band is hitting the studio soon for its second album, tentatively titled "Psycho Surgery".

Roger Martinez and **Vengeance Rising** will be hitting the studio shortly to record its third album. Roger is leading a morning devotion for several sales reps and company employees at the first Frontline Music Group sales conference. Frontline Music Group has just terminated its distribution agreement with Benson, and will be handling its own distribution. The company has established its own sales force, and Spring Arbor will actually be the "fulfillment" end of the distribution. This means that Frontline sales reps will visit and call stores, get orders for product, and then Spring Arbor will ship the product to the stores. Mike Delaney was hired by Frontline to oversee this process in Spring Arbor's Belleville, Michigan headquarters. This whole scenario should be an improvement for Frontline, since these sales reps are more likely to really get into and understand rock and metal.

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Mike Grato and George Ochoa

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Blackhouse has a new compact disc out--"Material World." This band has been an innovative force in rad alternative music. Shades of industrial have graced past albums. Those interested can get it for $14 ppd (or $17 ppd Foreign). Write: Ladd-Frith Music, PO Box 967, Eureka CA 95502.

There's a new industrial/dance band from Austin, Texas that has been playing live a bit, called **donderfliegen.**

Larry Norman has returned from a tour in Russia and Eastern Europe. This visit saw Larry and family receive royal treatment in the Soviet Union. Several attended his concerts, several offering bouquets of flowers to Larry, and he stayed at a prestigious hotel usually reserved for Soviet leaders. To receive a newsletter and product form of Larry's latest and earlier material still available, write: Phydeaux, 1808 Hector Lane, Santa Cruz CA 95062. **Barngrover/Light** recently supported Larry on a few West Coast dates.

Rumor has it that **Living Sacrifice**, reviewed in Issue #27, has been signed to R.E.X. We'll keep you posted.

Deliverance could now jokingly be called "Delivercon," because three of its four members are from the group Recon. Bassist Brian Khairullah has stepped down and Recon bass virtuoso Mike Grato has stepped in. That leaves founding member Jimmy Brown with three members from Recon: Grato, George Ochoa, and John Gonzalez.

One Bad Pig has a new bass player--Daniel Tucek. The Pig is heading up to Nashville to record its third album, tentatively titled "I Scream Sunday." The songs the band has been working on are very funny and intense.

A band called **Contrition** has started up in the Northeast. Watch out for 'em in these pages.

Sacrament, Thresher, Sardonyx, and **Overdrive** all played together at a New Year's Eve show in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Charlie Peacock's "West Coast Diaries" tapes (Volumes One to Three) are now being released on CD by Sparrow. This "don't confuse me with metal" artist has started a haven for artists in his new home of Nashville, called "The Art House," and he's also opened a studio.

Surrender are out and playing in the L.A. area. On December 26th, the band played at the Troubadour in West Hollywood. Reports on the band are that it plays good melodic metal.

A moshing unit known as **Temperance** (once known as Wisdom) have been rehearsing on an up-coming demo. Be on the lookout for this band from Stratford, Connecticut.

Those people who heard about the Operation Rescue album, "Crying For You, Baby," can now get it on cd. To order, send $14.95 (plus 10% postage) to: The National Rescuer, PO Box 1608, Binghamton NY 13902.

Sparrow Records is going to reprint a revised and expanded edition of **Kerry Livgren's** biography, Seeds Of Change. The first edition was excellent, so I'm looking forward to reading this one.

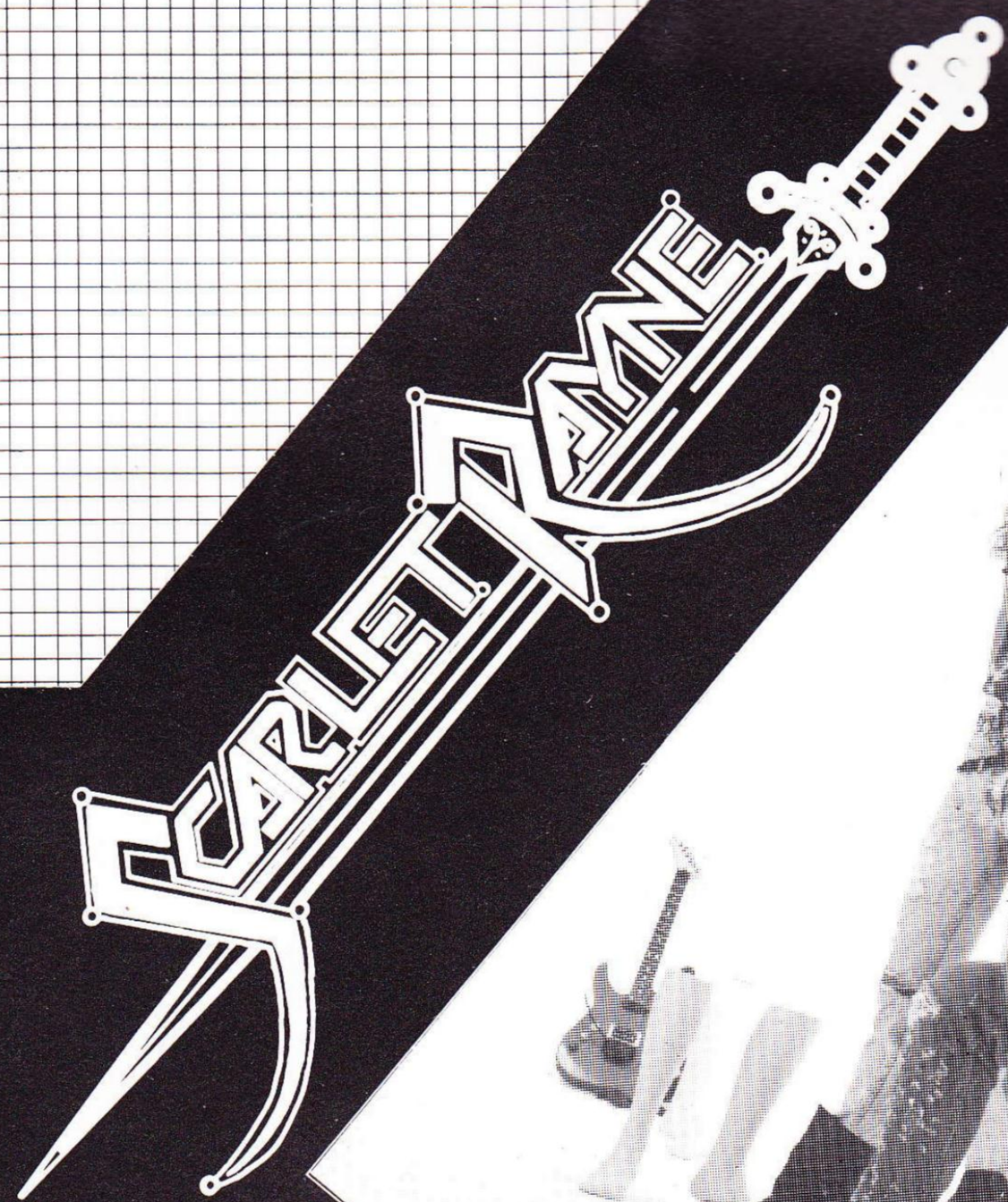
Anyone wishing to correspond with a brother in Czechoslovakia who digs Christian metal, write: Josef Korenek, SUS-UP, Krizkovskeho 14, 772 00 Olomouc, Czechoslovakia.

Lary Dean of **Trytan** has had a definite reaction from listeners due to the change in styles from "Celestial Messenger" to "Sylentiger." He explains, "It's obvious that there's certain parallels to Rush that we have that will be kind of hard to eliminate, unless I have another voice transplanted, or we get another singer. Knowing that we would have this to work with, not as a handicap, but as an asset, we wanted to create a sound of our own with all of the tools that we had to work with. In reviewing the first couple years of our recording career, like what the opinion was of the 'Celestial Messenger' project, we kind of thought that we could do one of two things: either continue with a kind of Rush type of signature style; or go for more of our own style, which seemed to be more the natural course, which was being true to our form. It seemed something that the Lord had ordained as well, because we felt much better about being able to say, 'Well, we don't sound as much like Rush as we used to.' On the other hand, we'd rather be known as a band that has their own distinct sound and didn't build on another foundation, as it were. Another thing too that prompted it was with Scotty Blackman not in the lineup not any longer, we were faced with a sound that was automatically changed. Scotty has a lot of tendencies like Neil Peart. Without that in the music, that just changed it automatically. We tried to key off of the new drumming direction and that new framework. I think that even more streamlined our sound. Trying to work with Jim and his driving approach, as opposed to more busy, more progressive approach that Scotty had. It seemed a more natural progression than trying to go backwards.

"We were trying to monitor where the market was in the three and a half years that we hadn't released a record and we were trying to hit something that was on target with some of the other styles that had received a popular response. We tried to make a progression as songwriters, as lyricists, and as arrangers too. It was something we did very consciously."

The public response? "Well, it seems to be a split decision at this point. I think for every review I've read that was hoping that we'd have a more progressive Rush type of style, I've read one that has really acknowledged the new sound. That has more or less satisfied us in that we did something different than the Rush sound, and we accomplished it. As far as talking to people at concerts and people that we know, there seems to be a little bit more favor towards the new sound, especially other artists. They think it's better that we're known for a Trytan style of music. We're content. We feel it was the most natural and honest thing to do. It seems like the new sound is as well received as the old sound was. I think the audience is much larger now, so it's kind of difficult.

"I felt frustrated, because we were kind of considering these songs and how they would be received by the audience, and we had very high hopes. I think an artist expects that the efforts will be well received and the Lord's going to do a lot of neat things with them. That's not to say that that hasn't happened, because it really has. We know the Lord has used 'Sylentiger,' but your expectations are always a little higher, and when it doesn't seem to be happening the way you picture it, you get kind of frustrated. That is also a neat opportunity for the Lord. I know that He has taught me through this that He's in charge and He is where our trust is going to be, not in songs, management, our record company, and



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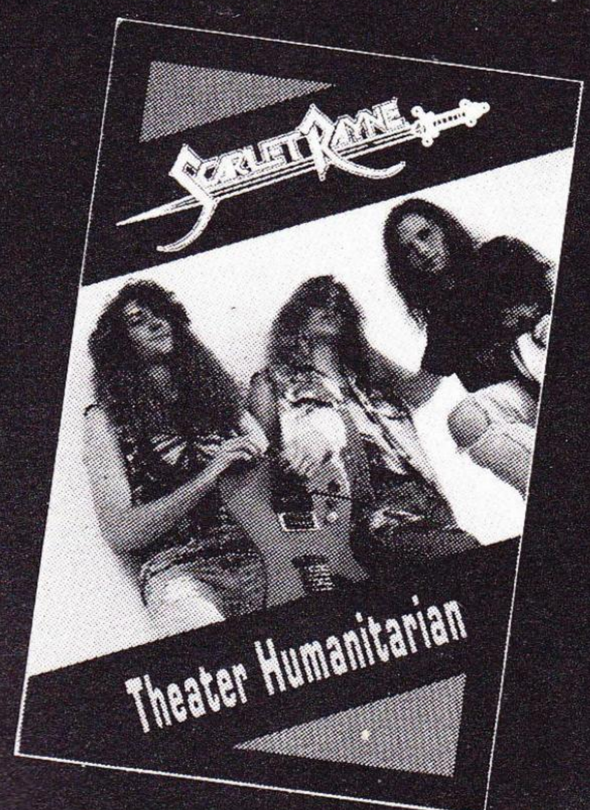

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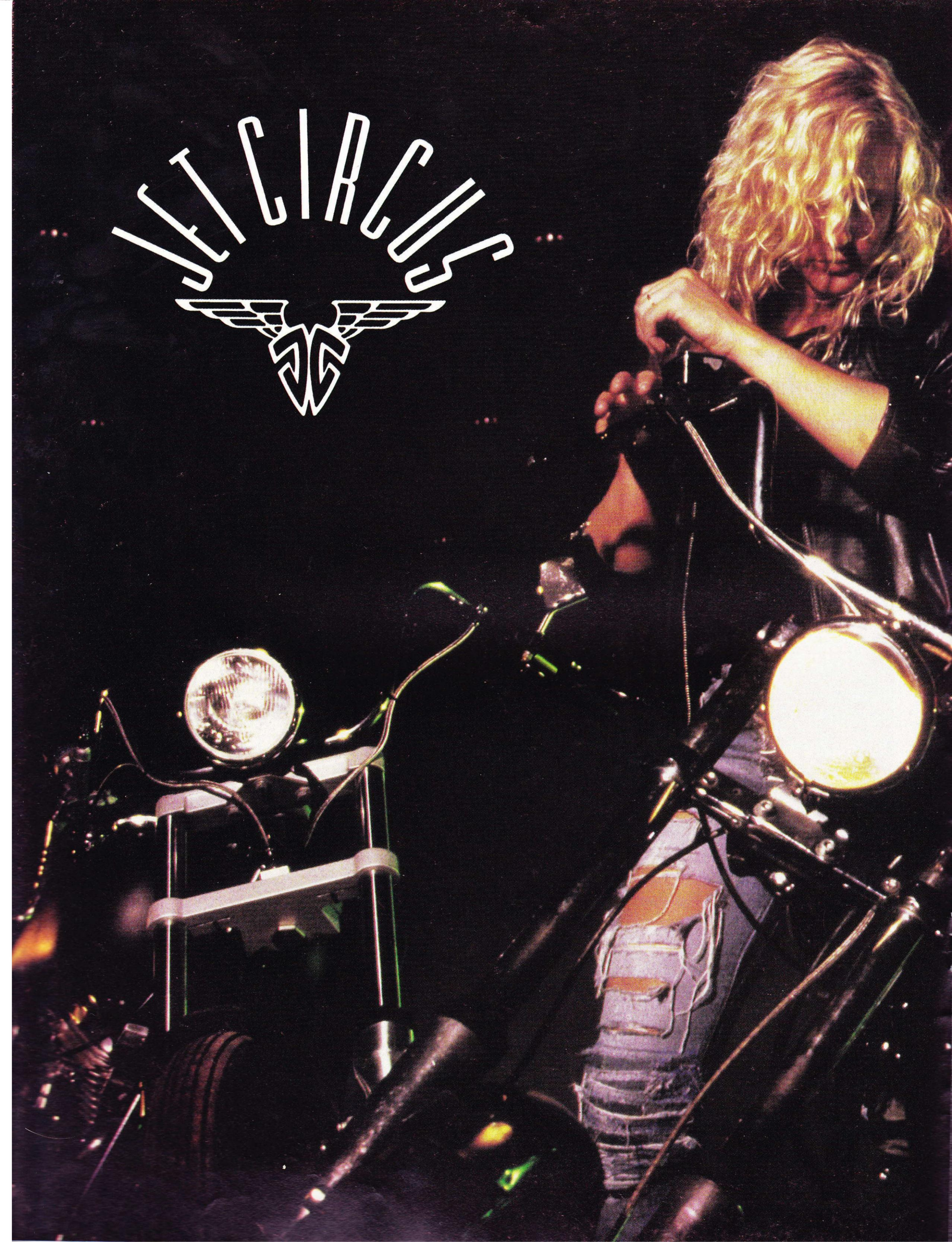
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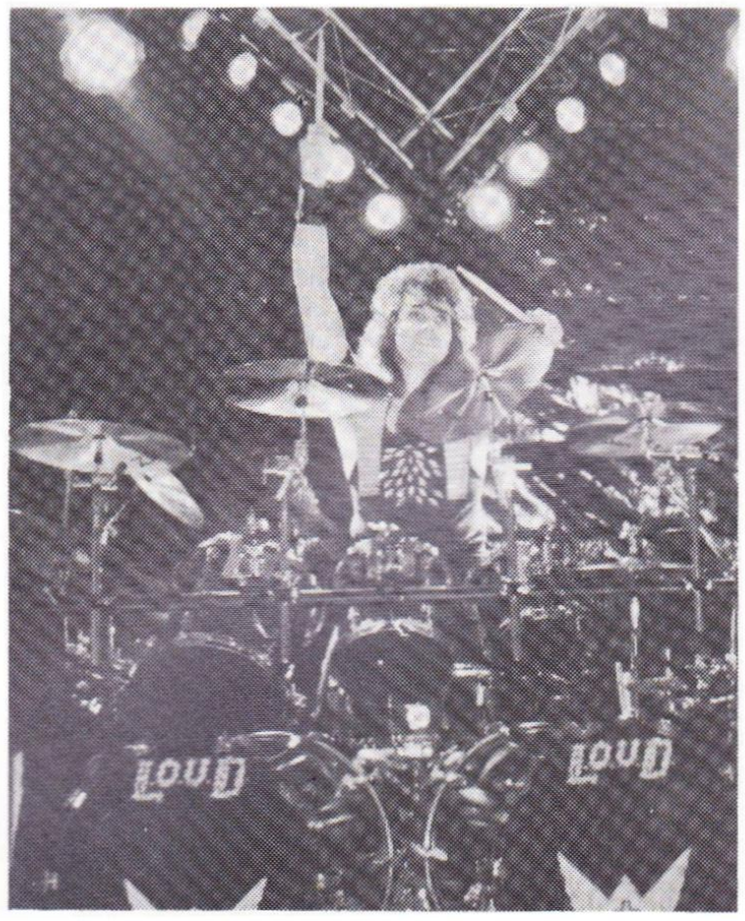

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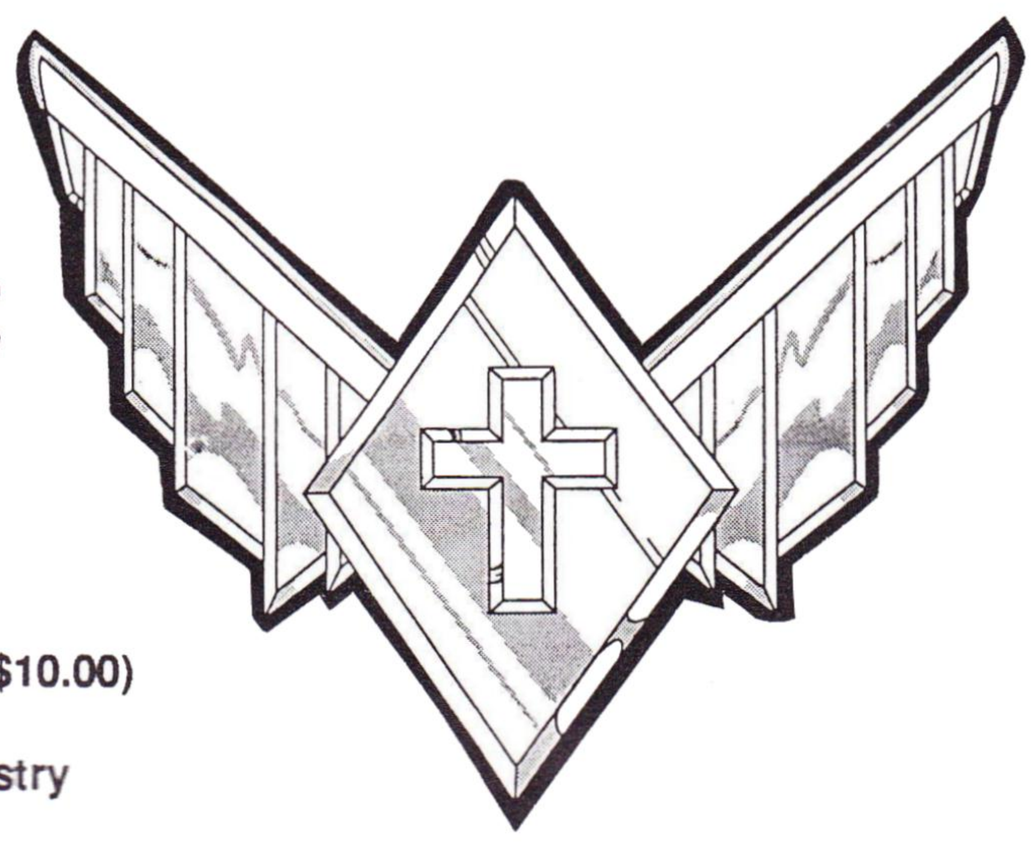

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especially our selves. Like the Proverb says, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.'

"He had a purpose for those songs. We believe as we prayed about the material, and we think that every minister--whether it's a musician, or a journalist, or a pastor--should pray about what they say and what they do. These songs were certainly something that was born out of a lot of prayer. We feel that the Lord had a specific intent for them.

"The third record? I don't even know what's happening with that yet. I know it is about half-written. There's a lot of commercial stuff, a lot of progressive stuff. We're even considering a unique concept album for the third one. So, there's a lot of different ideas, about two or three different directions we can go. We're going to spend the next six months just putting it together and figuring out exactly what we're going to do...if we're gonna go for a more mainstream sound or kind of go for a progressive kind of concept twist, or a kind of hybrid twist of the two. I'm excited about where it's gonna go."

Good news: vocalist **David Raymond Reeves** and guitarist **Don Webster** of **Neon Cross** have formed a new band called **Passion**. Both Neon Cross and David's last band, Trinity, haven't worked out.

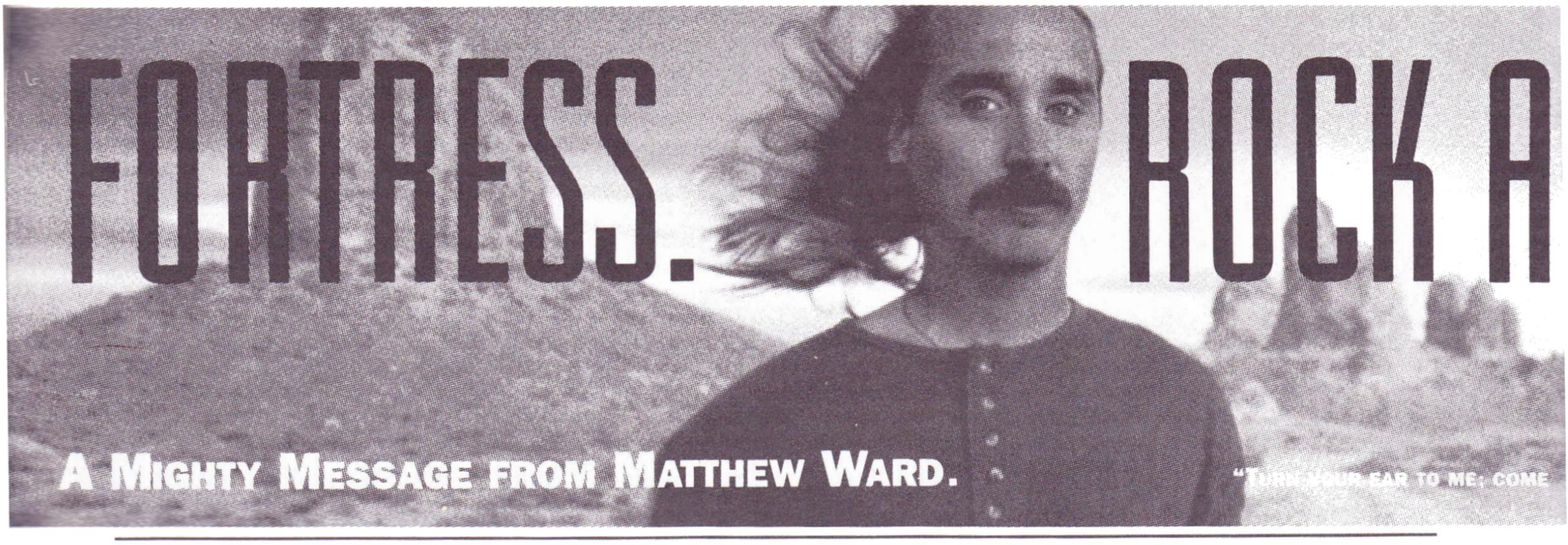
Holy Soldier has been receiving lots of mail from soldiers in Operation Desert Storm. Apparently some of the soldiers are wearing Holy Soldier dog tags with their government issue tags. Holy Soldier, One Bad Pig, Guardian, Jet Circus, and all the Word metal artists could be receiving some big exposure in the secular market with the new distribution agreement Word Records made with Epic/Sony.

Unsigned thrash band **Martyr** opened for secular thrashers **Vio-Lence** in L.A. recently. J.R. Montgomery of Seventh Seal saw Martyr at the recent thrash fest in California and reports that they were very good.

Jet Circus is having an essay contest titled, "Why Your Pastor Should Ride A Harley." Essays should be 100 to 300 words and turned in to Wonderland by June 15th. Some of the prizes to be awarded include: Special-edition European Jet Circus product and Harley-Davidson endorsed memorabilia... Send entries to: Jet Circus Essay Contest, 2835 Belvidere Rd, Suite 115, Waukegan IL 60085... The band will be touring the U.S. in July... Opening for the Circus in the summer months will be fellow Wonderland artists **Fighter**. Fighter will hook up with **Whitecross** in the fall. **Chagall Guevara** drummer Mike Mead will be playing drums on the upcoming Whitecross record. Fighter guitarist Bill Heller is endorsed by Zion guitars and used to play with guitarist Dave Ellison of Megadeth.

Dreamer has just finished recording its debut album, titled "Full Metal Racket," which should be out immediately. It includes

Dreamer



12 songs and will be distributed in the U.S. by Spring Arbor, and in Canada by CMC or Word. The band will be playing at this year's KingdomBound Festival.

Ex-**Barren Cross** vocalist **Vince Van Voltenburg** is going to record an album under the name Vin Van Volt. It will be called "Acoustical Praise." Vince says, "A lot of headbangers tire of rockin' all the time and want to worship the Lord with this kind of music."

K-Tel Records' latest metal sampler will have some good tunes on it. One tune scheduled for this album is a **Joshua** cut from the "Intense Defense" album, called "Crying Out For Love". Wanna hear something tragic? This album almost had the legendary Jerusalem cut "Sodom" on it. The master couldn't be delivered in time for pressing.

Congratulations to Heaven's Metal staff writer **Jeff Scheetz**, who was voted "The Best Guitarist In Kansas City" for the second year in a row in the annual Banzai Magazine reader's poll. Scheetz and his trio are doing some touring and performing guitar clinics for Yamaha nationwide.

New label Blonde Vinyl has signed a new thrash metal/punk rock band called **Fluffy**. Roving reporter and all-around cool guy J.R. Montgomery has also seen these guys, and says they're hot and very funny. The band's debut album will be called "Fluffy Luvs You." Also scheduled for release on the label is: a surf punk album by the legendary **Lifesavers**; "This Is The Healing" by L.S.U.; "Songs And Stories" by **DanceHouse Children**, which is said to be "premiere Christian dance music in the style of Erasure and The Pet Shop Boys. Blonde Vinyl will receive distribution from Spectra.

King's X has been opening for AC-DC. Your devoted Heaven's Metal editor is planning on catching this show (at least the opening band. AC-DC is foul and boring to me these days.), so you'll see a short report in the next issue.

The bands confirmed at Cornerstone '91 are: **Mastedon** (in its first gig ever!); **Guardian**; **Bloodgood**; **Whitecross**; **The Crucified**; **Jet Circus**; **Crystavox**; REZ (what a surprise!); **Crash Dog**; **Darrell Mansfield**; **scaterd-few**; **Believer**; **One Bad Pig**; **Whiteheart**; **Donna McElroy**; **Adam Again**; **Rick Elias**; **Charlie Peacock**; **Dave Mullen**; **The Cry**; **The Violet Burning**; **The Choir**; **The Throes**; **Larry Howard**; **Jacob's Trouble**; **Cause & Effect**; **SFC**; **Derrick Lynn**; **Edin Adahl**; **Fourth Estate**; **Wes King**; and **Brooks Williams**. The "Evening Encore" stages on the four nights will be: Thursday--Adam Again, scaterd-few, and Fourth Estate; Friday--Crystavox, Believer, and The Throes; Saturday--One Bad Pig, The Crucified, and Derrick Lynn; Sunday--Darrell Mansfield, Crash Dog, and Rick Elias. The festival this year will be held about 40 minutes west of Peoria, Illinois on a campground that the Jesus People fellowship purchased.

New Zealand has a couple new Christian thrash bands called **Frenzy** and **Corporate Underground**. A pop metal band from the area is called **Shattered Silence**.

Intuition has a custom tape called "Turn It On," which is due out late Spring. Heaven's Metal will keep you posted.

X-Sinner's guitarist Greg Bishop will soon be a new papa. His wife, Karen, is pregnant and due in late July.

VIDEO WATCH

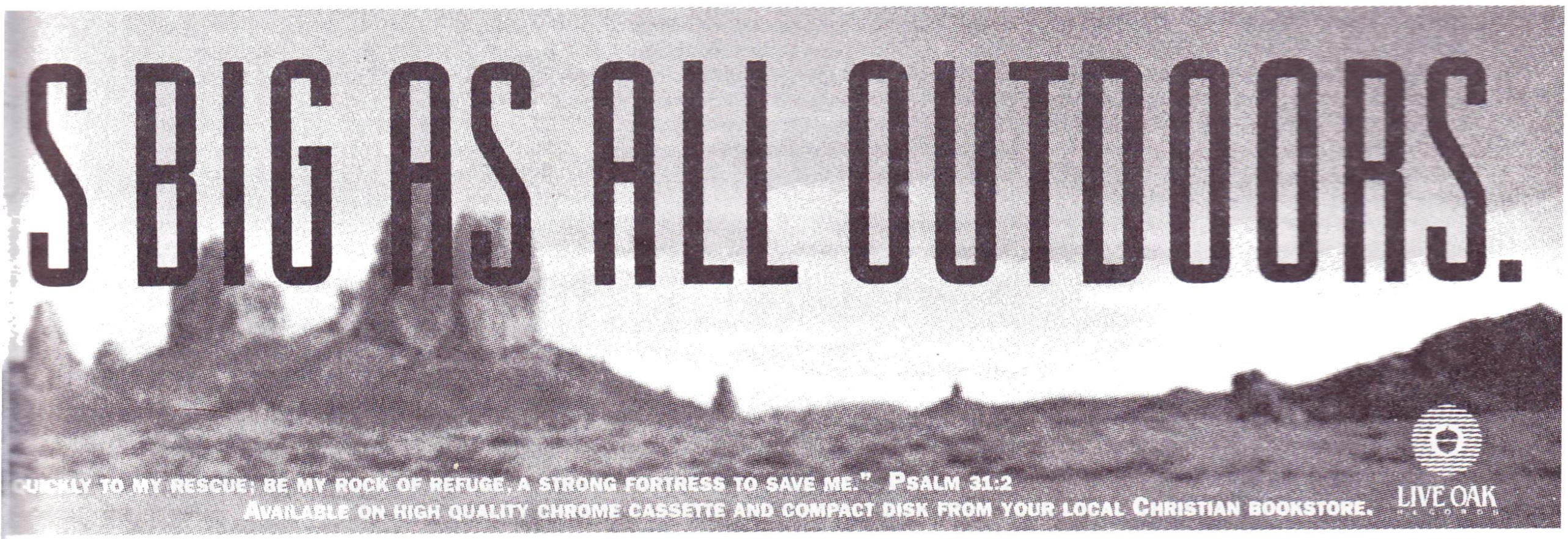
Here is a look at a couple of song videos that are out now that might be of interest to you. Due to the low frequency of video releases by Christian metal bands, this feature might not show up regularly.

"NOT THAT KINDA GUY" by STRYPER is a laid-back, fun look at this bunch of clowns. Shot in a "video-shoot" setting, the band has apparently just finished filming another video, presumably "Lady," and are just hanging out. Michael suggests jamming for one more song, and the band starts playing. The film crew starts cleaning up the set, which includes taking away one of Robert's floor toms, while the camera follows the band's antics. The whole feel of the video is "rough." The camera purposely goes in circles to follow Michael running around, which includes bad lighting and all. The end of the song shows the rest of the guys dousing Robert with a large pitcher of water. Easily the most fun and casual of the band's seven videos.

"THE ARK OF SUFFERING" by TOURNIQUET is a full-on blitz of intense playing and animal suffering footage. Shots of the band playing with a dark, black background and strokes of blue and purple paint thrown in the background help make up for the low resolution of video tape filming. This footage is mixed with black and white footage of the band, giving a good format for the eye of the beholder. The attention gets focused on the band, and not the quality of footage. One of the most innovative shots in the video is a "drummer's foot pedal view" of Ted Kirkpatrick's feet hammering the double bass pedals. Good idea.

Of course, to fit the subject matter of the song, some really good and effective animal abuse footage is mixed in--driving the message of the song home. Devino, the illusionist who performs at Tourniquet's shows, appears here also, wearing a head clamp and rubber mouthpiece that monkeys wear during shock treatment. A unique negative (reversed) shot of this footage makes it even more chilling. He is shown with fire coming out of the eye and mouth holes in a mask near the end of video. A shot of two monkeys going through a torturous test together holding hands finishes the video with a sobering suddenness.

What's really neat is that the band has made this single video available for purchase via mail order! Simply send $5.98 (plus $1 postage) to: PO Box 4171, Burbank, CA 91503. HM



DR. GRACE'S PRESCRIPTION

Here is part two of the interview with Dudley Hall on his favorite subject: GRACE.

**Last time you talked about being intimate with God and "sitting down in Jesus." Could you give some practical ways somebody can start to get to the point where they can sit before God? What are some practical steps on how to enter that rest?

"Well, I think the first thing I would say to anybody is, 'Set as a priority in your life to have intimacy with God.' Jesus said to Mary and Martha, 'Martha, you're distracted about so many things. Really, there's only one thing that's important...and Mary has chosen it.' Well, Mary has chosen, regardless of what all those other calls of life were to her, she had chosen to sit at Jesus' feet, look at His face, and listen to Him. And so I think, the first thing to do is set as your priority: I am going to have intimacy with God. Now, that will set you on a journey. That's not the end of the deal, that will just set you on the journey. Then you will go on the journey of trying to have intimacy by discipline, or trying to have intimacy by techniques or steps--and all of that will prove futile, but at least you're on the journey. You're now in the right search, and see, that's better than a search for ministry or usefulness or all that kind of stuff. When you set that as a priority, there will come a time when you realize that the only way that I can be intimate with Him is to let Him be intimate with me. And that is to receive His love, as a woman receives the love of a man; like in reproduction, as the woman receives the seed of a man. The scripture says to receive the word of God. That same word is used. As we begin to receive the love of God, the grace of God and His unconditional love, as we realize and let Him love us.

"Then, it's out of that love that we will love, and then out of that love will come all the good deeds that need to get done, all the service that needs to get done. But, until it gets done in that order, our service will be selfishly motivated or performance oriented. So, I think it's as simple as doing what Jesus said, 'There is only one thing necessary': choose intimacy with God. Let that journey take you wherever it's going to take you. Don't be satisfied until you have intimacy with God, 'cause out of that intimacy you and He produce children. When you and Jesus have that love relationship, children come out of it: the children of good works, service, ministry, miracles... It may not be practical enough, but at least it's only one step. It won't be complicated."

"The very language 'failure' means we're measuring ourselves by a performance standard. I'm in a love relationship that's not being measured anymore."

**I really like what you said a few years ago--"The journey is the destination." The eternal life is knowing Him Who He has sent. (John 17:3)

"It's all a relationship. If we could ever really know this: That the Bible is a book on relationships. It started off with God, Who created man and woman to have fellowship with. He called Abraham, cause He wanted a family. The whole book is about a relationship. We turn it into doctrine, goals, and procedures, methods, and rules. It's a book about relationships for heaven's sake! It's God wanting to know man and making it possible for man to know God. Knowing God is the whole deal. I'm there. I know God. I have eternal life, and I'll spend the rest of my life knowing God. So, I don't have anywhere to arrive to."

**What really makes me appreciate you is that God has used you to confirm a lot of things for me. It's neat when you hear teaching that expounds on something the Lord has been telling you. It drives it in a little deeper. It kind of makes you feel like you have a kindred fellowship with them, even if you just see them on tv.

"That's what is so wonderful with the body (of Christ)--Is that you can go anywhere in the world and have instant rapport, because you have been hearing the same thing. Several years ago we were in Europe having an international congress on awakening, and we brought some guys out of Lithuania, and the underground church in Russia. We thought we'd teach these guys some stuff, ya know? We got there and we said, 'Would you like to share a word of testimony?' So, they got up and started telling what God had been saying. It's exactly what God had been saying to us, and I thought, 'How did they know that? They haven't been listening to the same tapes we have.' Here are guys who live in a totally different culture, everything is different; and they have heard exactly what we've heard from God. Here's my brothers. I mean, I had more unity with them than I would with physical brothers or sisters. That's what's so wonderful about the family of God, and what makes me so mad about the walls the divide us. And to think--those brothers and I could be divided, because they might be Greek Orthodox and I might be Evangelical Christian--and we wouldn't get to know each other because we would be afraid... I mean, that's stupid."

**I remember one of the highlights of my life was in '89 at an Operation Rescue rally before the morning of rescues. One of the things they had you do was read the bi-laws they had written up, and one of them was, "We are the body of Christ," and I was choked up. Just the realization and the privilege that I could say that amongst Catholic priests and Baptist pastors and, all the big spectrum of the body of Christ just overwhelmed me of the privilege of being a part of this great body. It's a beautiful, wonderful bride.

"Isn't it interesting that Paul learned more about the body of Christ the first day he was saved than all of us have learned since then. He said, 'Who are You, Lord?'

"He said, 'I'm Jesus Whom you've persecuted.'

"Paul said, 'I've never persecuted You.'

"'Oh yes,' He said. 'You persecuted my Christians. When you persecute them, you persecute Me.'

"Paul learned right then who the body was. He learned that, when you touch a Christian, you're touching Jesus. I wish we had that much appreciation. When I'm touching you, I'm touching Jesus. We'll get up and praise, 'Oh, I love you Jesus!' and then criticize each other. (laugh) That's not too smart."

**What if you fail? What's your message to people who have failed? What's your answer to failure?

"The first thing is: It's an unrealistic expectation and a lie to believe that you can't fail. That's one of the lies that we believe from the enemy, and that is that we never expect to fail. Of course, a whole new definition of

success I guess, is: What is failure? We measure failure by performance. Well, that's an erroneous measuring stick, because Jesus already performed, so I can't fail. The only way that I can fail is to refuse to believe Jesus is my substitute. So, unbelief is the only true failure. So, what I try to encourage people to do is: Reject the lie that you have to perform. The fear of failure was taken care of by the justification of Jesus, by Jesus justifying us by His death. I see failure as a mirage. It's a big ghost out there that's not even real. If there's no standard by which I'm being judged, how can I fail?

"Another aspect of it is this: Jesus committed Himself to me, and promised me that He wouldn't fail me. So, my commitment, my trust is in His commitment to me. If He's committed to me, He's going to cause me to do whatever I need to do. I don't have any faith in my faithfulness anyway. I have faith in His trustworthiness, so that takes the pressure off to fail.

"The very language 'failure' means we're measuring ourselves by a performance standard. Jesus fulfilled that and took it away. That is no longer even there, so I can't fail. So, if I don't do something right, big deal--because I'm in a love relationship that's not being measured anymore."

**That's fantastic.

"That's what I'm going to talk about tomorrow night, by the way. That's the whole key of staying away from struggling with sin. The scripture says, 'Apart from the law, sin is dead.' Well, if you die and you're not focused on the law; there is no sin. Sin has no power over you. It doesn't mean it's not there, but it has no power over you."

**That's a fun subject. In the past year, I've spent a lot of time confronting people and talking to people about sin. People who are struggling with habitual sin and stuff.

"When you're struggling with habitual sin, you're focused on the law, 'cause the law points out your weakness. If you're focused on your weakness, then the law is having its effect on you. The only answer for that of course, is not getting rid of the law--because you can't get rid of the law--the only answer is dying. When you die and you're married to Jesus... Jesus doesn't talk about law. Why should He talk about law? He's got something better to talk about. So what I've been doing is going through Song Of Solomon and looking at what the groom talks to the bride about. It's all love talk. It talks about, 'How beautiful you are, and how much I enjoy your presence, and how your breath is sweet.' That's how Jesus talks to His believers. That's where intimacy comes from."

If you'd like to contact Dr. Grace, er, Dudley Hall, write: Successful Christian Living Ministries, Box 101, Euless TX 76039. Stay tuned for the conclusion in Issue #30, where Dudley talks about loving un-lovable people and about some issues dealing directly with music ministry. HM

PASTOR BOB

As I picked up the newspaper, and prepared to indulge in my daily routines, I couldn't help but notice the headlines: **"WAR? ONLY GOD KNOWS"** Okay, they had my attention! I couldn't remember the folks at USA TODAY ever using God's name in a headline before! As I read the article, it talked about all the failed peace talks and frustrated heads of state. There was nothing more that they could do. It was in God's hands now!

As I write this, we're in the middle of a war. I can't help but remember a similar situation that happened in a location very near to our modern day Mid-East crisis! Genesis 18:17-33 talks about Sodom and Gomorrah. Why don't you put the magazine down for just a minute and read it! There are times when God's judgement is eminent! Times when enough is enough--When it's time, it's time! When we look at men like Saddam Hussein, we pray, "Lord, someone needs to stop him!" I don't think anyone would argue with that prayer, but before we jump on our pious horses and ride off into our righteous sunsets, let's look at ourselves in light of world events...

Let's begin by comparing hearts. Saddam Hussein's heart has never been enlightened. Ours has. And yet, look at our own state of spirituality! We kill thousands of babies every year. We let pornography and violence run rampant in television, movies, and music. We even buy the stuff! We continue to see secular humanism take dominion over our

"PRAY!"

country and our freedom. Yet, when it comes to our own spiritual lives, we see apathy the rule--not the exception! We once lived in the light as a nation. We need the mercy of God today! Most of all, we need repentance!

Proverbs 14:34 says: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." There are times when we need to see our own moral state, not just our political state! We need to see the state of our hearts toward God, not just injustice! But, in the middle of this war, there is one fact that is still sure: People who have a relationship with God have an opportunity and a responsibility to pray--no matter how much sin is around them! Let's go back to our story of Sodom and Gomorrah...

God offered to spare Abraham because he could see Abraham's heart was for repentance. Abraham knew that the heart of God desired to do what was right! (verse 25) But our tendency is to give up and announce that "it's all in God's hands anyway." It's true. The things of this earth are not determined by the power of man--But, they are determined greatly by the morality of man! Things on the earth, as well as in our own lives, will never change until we understand our need for the power of God to intervene! Back to Genesis 18...

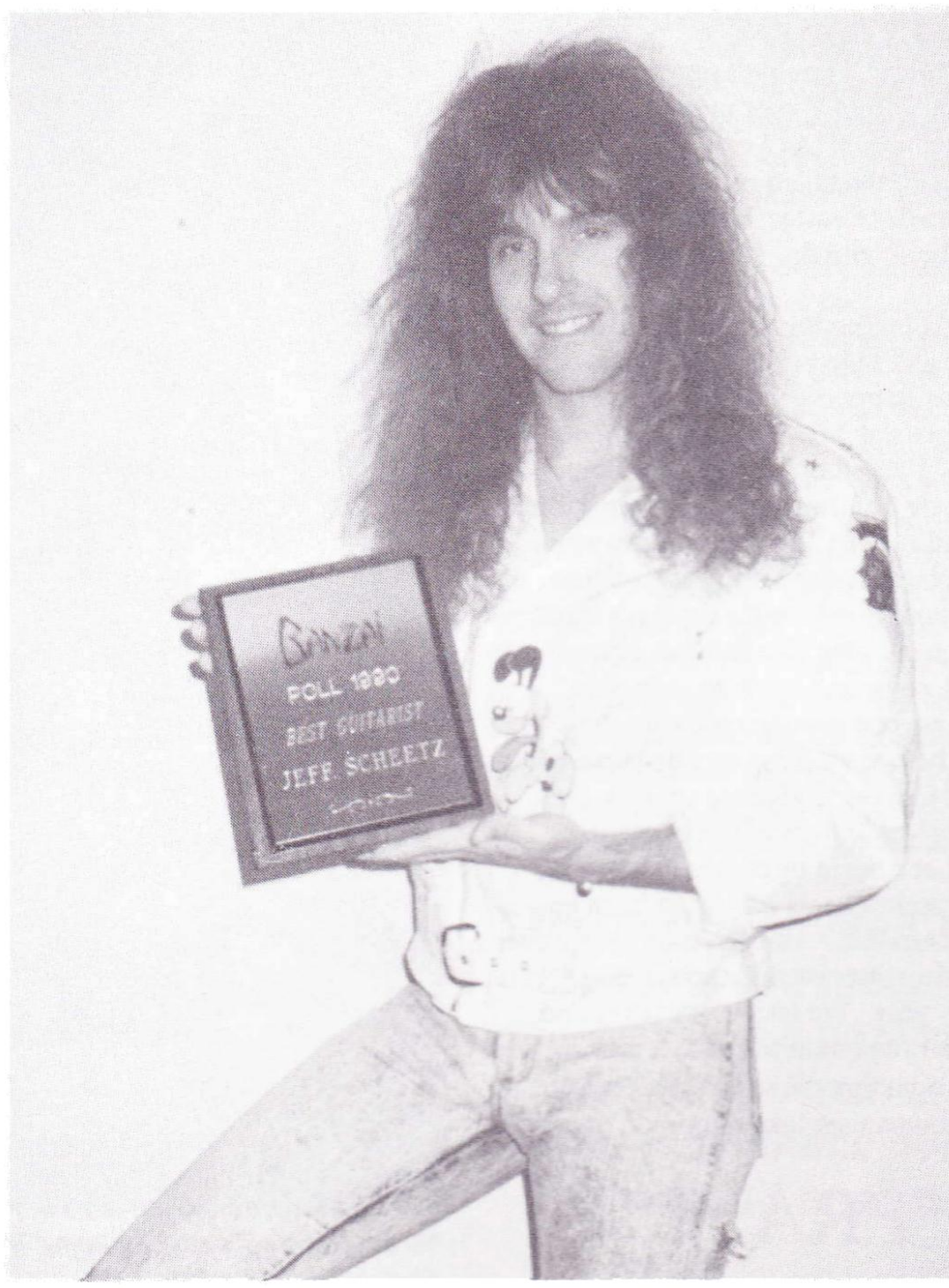
Photo by Sandra Mayurnik

Abraham prays what I call his "One More Thing" prayer. He says, "What if I find 50 righteous people? ...45?...40?...30?...20?...10? Was Abraham out of line? No! God desires for us to speak openly with Him--and tell Him what's on our heart! God's ultimate desire is mercy--not judgment! Any act of judgment God takes is always for the purpose of opening up a path for His mercy to reign!

So what's our role in all of this? Pray, pray, pray! Let's not just sit around waiting to see what happens--Let's pray! Seek Him with humility. Ask Him for His sovereign will to be revealed, and to enlighten people's hearts--beginning with us personally! Ask Him for forgiveness for our nation. I pray that, by the time you read this, we will have solved our differences and will be living in peace once again with the other nations of the world! But our nation is still in trouble. Ask Him for revival. The famous evangelist Gipsy Smith was once asked how to have a revival. Smith asked, "Do you have a place to pray?" The man answered that he did. "Tell you what you do," Smith said. "You go to that place, and take a piece of chalk along. Kneel down there, and with the chalk, draw a complete circle all around you. Then pray for God to send a revival to everything inside of the circle. Stay there until He answers...and you will have revival." As the song says, "Let there be peace on earth. And let it begin with me!" HM

LICKS & TRICKS

By Jeff Scheetz



Good morning!

This time we are going to tackle a stretching exercise taken from my video. ("Building a practice program"--Reflexx) Increasing your stretching ability will allow you to play wider intervals on a single string, thus creating more interesting sounding lines.

I first encountered the power of stretching when I started taking Karate. I was unable to figure out why my opponents could consistently kick me in the head, while I was lucky to get my leg up to their elbow! Fortunately, with time and a great amount of stretching exercises (not to mention a few acquired knots on my head) I too was able to kick that high. I had increased my stretch.

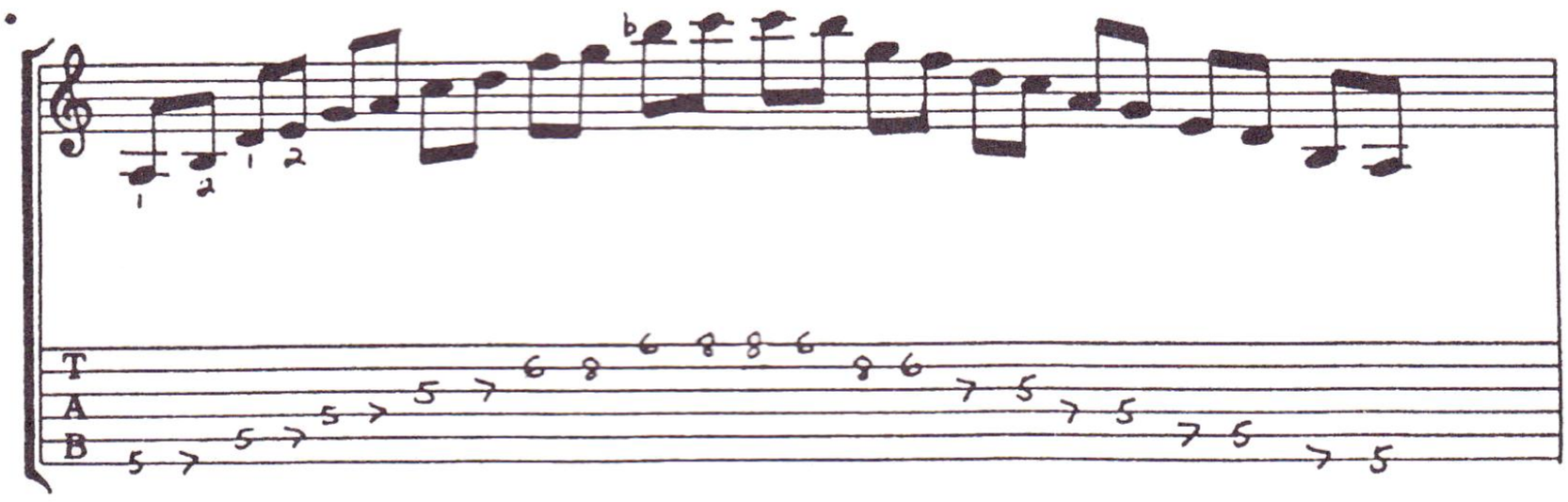
So when I started to play guitar and was having trouble stretching a minor third (a four fret span), I decided to employ a set of exercises to increase my finger stretch.

Play the exercise below very slowly at first and with proper hand position. Start with fingers one and two (Ex. 1), with the first finger on the fifth fret and the second finger on the seventh fret. Play across all the strings, moving up one fret for the last two strings, and then go back down in reverse order. The next step (Ex. 2) is to leave your first finger on the fifth but move your second finger up to the eighth fret. Finish the exercise by continuing to move your second finger up one fret at a time until you reach your maximum stretch. If you can go from the fifth to the tenth fret, you have got a good stretch.

Then do the same thing with fingers one and three, and one and four, each time starting with the fingers on the fifth and seventh frets and gradually increasing the distance by one fret. This is an individual thing and it is important to stretch to YOUR maximum and play across the strings several times once you get there. Remember, your improvement may be gradual, you may not see an increase in stretch for a week or two. However, if you keep at it consistently, it will work!

Also, be sure you are "warmed up" before you do this exercise (it takes the human muscle at least six minutes of activity to reach this point), and stop if you feel any pain. Til next time.....Good night! HM

Ex 1.



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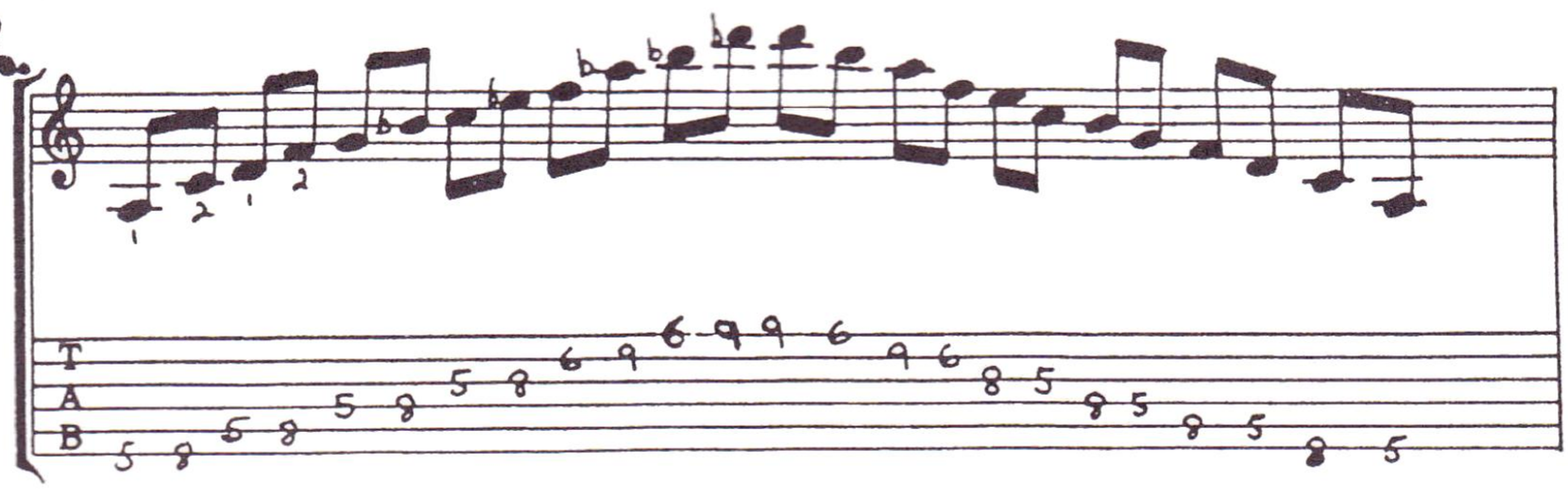

Trading Post classified ads are $5. Ads should be short, about 50 words or less. Other underground magazines only will be exempt from this charge, because we trade classified ads with each other. Radio shows must send paid ads on station letterhead.

* **Christian guitarist** with rhythm and lead abilities needed for hard rockin' **Novella**. Debut record on major Christian label. Must desire to be original. Send bio, picture and tape to: 612 High Mountain Road, Franklin Lakes NJ 07417. (201) 891-5242.

* **Take A Stand**: $6 for 6 monthly issues. Send long SASE for 1st free issue: PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271.

* **Notebored**: $5 for 6 issues. $1 for current issue. (Checks or MO only) Box 202, RD 1, Atglen PA 19310.

* **The Cutting** Edge: $9 for 12 issues (Overseas send $20). Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **White Throne**: Current issue: $3, to White Throne, PO Box 20577, Dept. H, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **Christian Musicians United** is an organization designed to educate, motivate, and unify the musical servants of our Lord--Jesus. All styles represented. For more info, and a free copy of CMU Magazine, write: CMU, PO Box 20, Woodhaven NY 11421; or call (718) 296-5536 9-5 M-F.

* **White** Noise Subscriptions are $3. Write: PO Box 1564, Point Roberts WA 98281-1564.

* **Gospel Metal** - The LA mag that Satan doesn't want you to read! With the release of each new issue, more damage is being done to the kingdom of hell. For a sample issue, send $3 to: Keith Day, 3331 E. Romelle, Orange CA 92669.

* **Cross Rhythms** - Europe's leading music mag. Piles of metal, indie. Send 3 British Pounds in International Money Order for fat, 76-page issue, or go crazy and spend 32 British Pounds for a 12-issue subscription to: Cross Rhythms, 164 High Street, Birmingham, B12 0LD, England.

* **Radically Saved Magazine**: Under new ownership and better than ever. For a professional metal 'zine, send $2 for sample or $8.75 for a 6 issue sub ($14 overseas) to: RSM c/o Tyler Bacon, PO Box 9590, Murfreesboro TN 37132.

* **Different Drummer** - an alternative Christian music zine. News, reviews, articles, poetry, and stuff on the most alternative and underground music available. Only $1.50 for a sample issue ($2.50 overseas) or $6 for a subscription of 4 ($10 overseas) to: Different Drummer, c/o Erin Hooper, 3331 Quartz Ln D-4, Fullerton CA 92631.

* **White Metal Review** is a must for fans of White Metal! Read interviews with Bride, Stryper, The Lead, Seraiah, and Dragon Slayer! Plus all of your favorites! Complete with over 50 reviews, testimonies, contests, and killer full-color cover. This mag is for you! For a recent 80-page issue, send $3.95. To subscribe, send $12. If you aren't convinced that it will be worth your every penny, write and ask for a free monthly sample issue! White Metal Review, PO Box 700024, Tulsa OK 74170-0024.

* **HUNGARIAN UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE** - Third issue will be 16 pages. Send $9 for 6-issues or $1.50 each. Write: PO Box 11516, 1001GM, Amsterdam, Holland.

* **Ransom** Magazine: radical Christian writing from the UK. Send 10 British Pounds (or USA equivalent) in International Money Order for a six issue subscription. Send to Ransom, 6 Belle Vue Road, Lincoln, Lines, LN1 1HH, England.

* **The Christian Music Trader**. Plug into us to buy, sell, or trade your Christian music. Free advertising for subscribers, Christian music classified, reviews, music charts, and more! Send $1 for your sample! CMT, PO Box 680333, Orlando FL 32868-0333.

* **Real Alternative Press** Young underground 'zine. Needs demos, etc. Write: Larry Miles, 8596 Woodhaven SW, Byron Center MI 49315. Subscriptions $6; $1 sample copy.

* **The Obligator** $1 for a trial issue or $5 for five-issue subscription. Foreign and Canadian orders please write for rates. Send to: Mark Hodges, PO Box 915, Muskegon MI 49443-0915.

* **Rain Magazine** $4.88 for 6 issues. Send to: The Rain, PO Box 192, Robertsville OH 44678.

* **Crossfire Magazine**: A headbanger's dream! Featuring some of White Metal's best interviews (Bride, Crystavox, Deliverance, etc.), honest reviews, current news, challenging devotionals, and intriguing fiction, Crossfire rages war with Satanic realms! Send $6 for 6 issues or $1.50 for a sample issue. 2111 E. Santa Fe, Suite 192, Olathe KS 66062.

* Looking for **hard-to-find Christian albums** you can't find in stores? Send a business size self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Itinerant Iconoclast, 370 Greentree Lane, Milan MI 48160 for a free catalog of the largest and best selection of rare and hard-to-find rad tunes in the universe.

* **White** Rock is a Swedish Christian metal zine written in Swedish. $3 per issue (no checks please). Write: c/o Roland Engstrom, Faltspatvagen 46, 2 steps, S-803 34 Gavle, Sweden.

* **Gregorian Chants** - A Hippie Monks alternative music rag. Send ten cents and a SASE to: 2005 Palo Verde Ave, #230, Long Beach CA 90815.

* **T-GARR Magazine** - c/o Tim S. Sutherland, HQ HST, Box 168, APG MD 21005. A diversified mag for diversified youth. Music that moves, 'n articles that make ya think. Don't be a schmuck! Get the T-GARR attitude! $2.50/sample, $15/sub (6 issues).

* **SHRAPNEL**: THE CHRISTIAN METAL MAGAZINE. News, Current Topics, Interviews, Reviews, Guitar Instruction, Production And Recording Hints, Comics, Humor, Science, Loads Of Pictures! Special Section For New Bands. Send name and address for free subscription. Shrapnel c/o BUBUS Distributing, 2810 Thousand Oaks, San Antonio TX 78232. (512) 496-9872.

* **Cephas**: The radical metal mag with bite. $2 an issue, or $7 a year. Make checks payable to: Phil Powell, 9401 Caltor Ln, Ft. Washington MD 20744.

* **Secular Magazine** with a Christian editor seeks Christian demos, albums, videos, etc. for review. Get your music exposed to the secular market the right way. I guarantee a fair review with no religious persecution. Send complete package to Requiem c/o Andy Martin Jr, PO Box 50228, Raleigh NC 27650. Current issue with full-color cover--$2 to same address.

* **Committed**: A drastic zine with an intense focus on cutting edge Christianity and rad tunes of truth. Subs are $5-5 iss. $1 for sample. 1321 Drivers Circle, Rocky Mt. NC 27804.

* **SCREAM!** zine. A hardcore Christian zine for those who just gotta scream back at the world. Let yourself be heard...SCREAM! $6 for 6 issues. Write: SCREAM!, 229 Cunningham Dr, Rock Mount NC 27804.

* **Piranha** - The Christian metal mag with teeth! We need demos, etc. Subscriptions are $5/year (4 issues). PO Box 11153, Blacksburg VA 24060.

* **ACM JOURNAL**: A pretty exhaustive listing of Christian rock music with addresses. Write: PO Box 1273, Sumner WA 98390.

* **ROCK & METAL ARTISTS**: You can be placed on Record, Radio and Stage in the College/Alternative market. Call (615) 776-5188.

* **Declaration**: A cool British magazine. (Bands send demos!) For a one-year subscription (4 issues), send 5 British pounds to: 136 Gravelly Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 6LT, England.

* **ROCK TOWER NESLETTER** - Metal, rock, pop music reviews, Bible studies, and more. Sample copy $2.50, or write for details. Follow The Light Ministries, PO Box 113, Absecon NJ 08201.

* **TEMPERED STEEL** is a weekly 2-hour Christian metal show featuring ALL THRASH & HARDCORE. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the show each week AT NO CHARGE, write or call: Tempered Steel c/o Dale Early, PO Box 1212, Ft. Myers FL 33902/(813) 275-3455.

* **Golgotha** Heart-rocking metal band behind bars. Free zine for the asking. Write: Dallas Hans-75209, A.S.P.C.W., 2100 S. Hwy 87, Winslow AZ 86047-9790.

* **Drummer Needed**: Career-minded final member wanted. Original rock project. Excellent connections, facilities. Most essential requirements: (1) Christian integrity, (2) Excellent meter. Equipment, experience, appearance of lesser importance. Use your God-given talent without compromise of integrity. If you can master parts that revolutionize rock percussion, call to discuss further: 713/944-1727.

* **ONE! zine** - World class Christianity at factory-to-you prices. ONE! is satire, Christian alternative and rock music, and thought-provoking commentary with quality writing, production and design throughout. For a 1 year subscription (4 issues), send $4 to: Jon Gabriel, 4949 W. Northern Ave #252, Glendale AZ 85301.

* **Cheap** CD's! Sacrament "Testimony Of Apocalypse" and Armageddon "Money Mask." Each played only 3-4 times, both in perfect condition. $8 each, first come first served basis. Send check to: Jonathan Read, 18 Boing Terrace, Mt Holly NJ 08060.

* **CD's For** $9.98 & Cassettes for $6.63 + free shipping + bonus. Let us show you how. Write for free catalog: Daystar Ministries, Inc, 78 E. Main St. Marlton NJ 08053. (609) 983-7737.

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* **Bands!** If you'd like exposure in a German metal zine geared for the lost and given away in pubs, schools, etc. Send material (photos, music, etc.) to: JESUS METAL CLUB, c/o Florian Filipp, Kriegerheimstrasse 7b, 8510 Furth, Germany.

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ALBUM REVIEWS

Recommendations this issue go to Ransom; Novella; Believer; AD; REZ; Metal Truck; Fourth Estate; Kings 'N' Priests; and DigHayZoose. If an ordering address does not appear in the review, that means the product should be available in Christian bookstores.

"RANSOM" - RANSOM

As I start the review, I have only an advance cassette in front of me that says "Ransom." No lyrics, no pictures, no names of who plays or sings what. But that's cool, cuz when I put the tape in, I didn't need any fact sheet to tell me that I was listening to some excellent music. The sound is powerful and tight, melodious and rockin'. And yes folks, Ransom has a female lead singer and she definitely has talent. With great range, emotion and attitude she belts out the tunes with shades of Patti Smith and Heart coming to mind.

Do you remember a guitar player for NightRanger named Jeff Watson? Well, that's who Ransom's guitar leadman sounds like on his solos, a great gliding hammer-on technique that is a pleasure to listen to. In fact, Ransom's powerful hook sensibilities remind one at times of early NightRanger or today's Nelson.

But just when you've got the sound pegged, they kick into the double bass speed attack of "Running Into The Darkness." Excellent musicianship all around. Good production, arrangements and mix. And the three ballads are powerful, emotional, smooth and cool. As I listen, I can't help but think of visual images, a la MTV to go along with the fantastic sounds of Ransom.

I love this tape and I give it my highest recommendation. I tried to find something wrong with it, but I could not. Let's thank God that Ransom is on our side.

--I.B. Willis

"ONE BIG SKY" - NOVELLA

Novella means "story." And this band is powerfully and melodically re-telling the story of salvation, healing, and the second coming. Singer and guitarist Jonathan Pagano has a good, clean, high vocal sound, kind of Steve Perry-ish. Novella is currently a three-piece, but the spotlight is obviously on Pagano.

A cool lyric from **I Need You**: "Can you hear the voice/ voice of the Spirit call/ Will you heed the noise/ as thousands in praise fall." Many will remember Novella from their appearance on Pure Metal's "Axemen" compilation. That song, **Running Home**, has been re-recorded, and sounds better than ever.

If you are into the sounds of Journey, Idle Cure, and Whiteheart, then Novella is definitely for you. Good production. Good songwriting. Good stuff.

--I.B. Willis

"HEARTBREAK TOWN" - THE STAND

Some very cool alternative rock with nice-acoustic flavorings. Top picks are: **Every Dream**, with its infectious pop chorus and jangley guitar sound; and **J146**, a passionate anthem with urgent lyrics from the verse John 14:6.

--Doug Van Pelt

"SANITY OBSCURE" - BELIEVER

The follow-up release from Christian metal's tightest band shreds its previous boundaries with this incredible set of fast and creative tunes. I love what the band did with the violins and Latin Opera singer in the tune **Diesaries**. The staccato-like trade-off between Baddorf and Bachman during **Stop The Madness** is totally cool also. The guitar intro to **Dust To Dust** sounds like Iron Maiden. The U2 cover of **Like A Song** is cool for its shock value, and Bachman's vocals are mixed well. His vocals are probably the one thing that keeps this band from dominating the rock and roll world. They sound sorough and barely decipherable, especially in super-sonic tunes like **Sanity Obscure**.

Overall, this album shows improvement over "Extraction..." Tunes like **Non-Point** show that these guys are a force to be reckoned with. Yow!

--Spiny Norman

"COLLAGE" - VAGUE

*Here's some pro-sounding alterna*tive pop rock along the lines of Rick Elias (who produced side A of this album) and a Sam Phillips, in a dance-able way...kinda like an acoustically-driven INXS at times. Cool stuff.

Like a collage, the lyrics to many of the songs here create visual images of several different varieties, conveying several different emotions, like "Shocked by a handful of melting snow in my face/ Snow from the hearts of a dead human race." (from **Collage**)

Side B is all acoustic versions of older Vague tunes. Lots of good harmonies between John Thompson and Michelle Thomason.

For ordering info, write: Paul Scott c/o True Tunes Mgmt, 210 W. Front St, Wheaton IL 60187.

--Doug Van Pelt

"ARISE SKATES" VIDEO SOUNDTRACK

This soundtrack from Andre Walton's skate video features lots of thrash and rap tunes, which make a dynamite mix for skaters. The roster includes The Crucified, SFC, Seventh Angel, and scaterd-few. Bride's blues rocker **Everybody Knows My Name** stands out as an exception here, though not slowing down the energy level at all. The only material here not found elsewhere is One Way Up's rappin' **We're On A Mission**. A good collection.

--Doug Van Pelt

"THE WAITING" - FIGHTER

Here is the third release from Wonderland Records. Having heard hype that it was musically somewhere between Heart and Giant, I eagerly anticipated hearing it. Well, I'm disappointed that it's not as good or heavy as the two afore-mentioned bands; but I'm impressed that it's filled with punching hot tunes of the Whiteheart variety. The guitar work sizzles!

Lots of good hooks are present here *and the lead vocals are shared/traded by Amy* Walters and guitarist Bill Heller. The material is very strong and very commercial. Like I said, fans of Whiteheart will love it. Much of this stuff sounds like it could've been included on that band's "Freedom" and "Powerhouse" albums. Power rock with power hooks and a few power ballads. A good performance, yet not much for metalheads to chew on.

--Doug Van Pelt

"STARS OF CHRISTIAN ROCK" - Various

Once you get past the audacious and unbefitting title of this album, you'll feast on a good collection of rockin' tunes. Hot points are: **Shake** by Russ Taff; **Devil Is A Liar** by Allies; and **Bye Bye Babylon** by Whiteheart. Honorable mentions are: Lone Justice's **I Found Love**, performed by Geoff Moore & The Distance; **Kick It Down** by Liaison; **You Can't Take It With You** by Margaret Becker; **Glorybound** by Mastedon; and **Come To Me** by Mark Farner.

--Doug Van Pelt

"RECONSTRUCTIONS" - AD
"BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL" - REZ
"FIRE AND ICE" - STEVE CAMP

Sparrow has done a great service to the public by releasing some of these classics on CD and then selling them for the budget price of $9.98.

I can't imagine any fan of Kerry Livgren/AD not getting this release. These 1986 songs shine with extra brilliance on this digital format and a keyboard intro never-before-heard to **All Fall Down** is included here! I don't know what happened, if there was any re-mixing done (apparently so), or if this intro was left off the old pressing of this album opener. The packaging here gets an "F" for leaving out the last song--**One Golden Thread**. For the uninitiated who has never partook of this artist's brilliant music--make your move now!

This CD re-issue of REZ's classic return to its heavy roots, after a short excursion into new-wave with "Hostage," is a welcome surprise for the REZ fan. Classic tunes like **Zuid Afrikan, Shadows, Walk On, I Think You Know**, and **Love Comes Down** sound better than ever on CD.

"Fire And Ice" is one of Steve Camp's best-ever albums, featuring rousing rockers like **Upon This Rock, Squeeze**, and **What Would The Devil Say**. Each song on this album includes some bold and biting lyrics that put the axe of God's Word to the tree of cold and apathetic hearts of sleepy believers. I've often thought of Steve as the modern-day

Keith Green. If he'd only put some more of this passion to heavier music...

--Doug Van Pelt

"EYE ON THE PRIZE"
- STEVIE & THE SAINTS

Stevie Olsen returns with another helping of his "Saintly Boogie." One side of the album, appropriately titled, "Side Blue," features the Texas blues sound that was exhibited on his "Metal Blue" album a few years ago. The other side, "Side Red," features more of a metal approach. These tunes cook.

The highlights from both sides would include: **Pass Me Not**; **No Blooz Blooz**, a slow git-down ditty; the title track, a rowdy metal number; and **Soldier Of Fortune**, with great lyrics about the future--"When the smoke has cleared and the truth declared and the final battle won/ We'll all stand before that great white throne and rejoice in the Son." Yeah!

The song **Wayfaring Stranger** starts out with a real Whitesnake feel, but female lead vocals keep it from reaching this level. Stevie's own voice would've been a better choice here.

Sanctuary Pastor Bob Beeman slaps the piano keys on this album, showing what some Sanctuary worship services include--good ole piano rockin.'

Overall, this is another good Stevie & The Saints record. I'm not sure if it tops the band's debut--"Metal Blue," but they've given us some more boogie-style worship songs in **Power In The Blood**, **Psalm 3**, and **Pass Me Not**.

--Doug Van Pelt

"ROAD KILL" - METAL TRUCK

With song titles like **Nobody Loves You When You're Burning In Hell**, **Busload 'O' Sin**, and **Big Bible**, you know you're dealing with Jesus fanatics! Oh yeah! With some good ole foot-stompin' blues metal to accompany them, Metal Truck delivers their in-your-face message with tons 'o' fun.

The tape cover is funny as well: it depicts a diesel truck running down a demon in the street, about to squish it. The guitarist, Lorenzo, was once a roadie for secular bands, until he got saved at a Stryper performance. "I wouldn't really say they ministered to me," recollects Lorenzo, "but I felt it was the Lord when that Bible hit me in the face."

Fans of REZ, Stevie & The Saints, and Darrell Mansfield should really dig this most excellent tape. Sonically it punches as loud as the music demands. For ordering info, write: James Smith, 4707 N. Malden, Chicago IL 60640.

--Doug Van Pelt

"EDGE OF THE SHADDOWS"
- FOURTH ESTATE

When looking for creative instrumental music performed by Christians, one need look no further than Denver's Fourth Estate. This trio combines years of experience and training in several different genres (classical, rock, jazz, flamenco guitar) to produce a solid sound with a great balance of melody and technical prowess.

The band's version of Ode To Joy, simply titled **Joy**, starts the tape off with a clear sound that's immediately impressive. **Dance Of The Spider-Monkey** is especially noteworthy, as it shows off more of guitarist Dave Beegle's complex and fast riffs. This guy shreds the light fantastic! He doesn't overshadow his bandmates either! Bassist Fred Babich and drummer Jim Iltis are exceptionally tight and talented. They use the art of subtlety very well, only showing off their chops when it most helps the song. In other

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words, not every space in this music is filled with jamming. Sweet, melodic sounds are allowed to resonate and dwell in your brain a little bit sometimes before moving on. Even a rocker, like the cover of Jethro Tull's **Locomotive Breath** takes a simplistic approach to performing. **Reflections** is another highlight, an epic-length tune that covers a lot of ground.

Many musicians will either: pay respect and praise the Lord for this band; or quit playing. For ordering info, write: 427 West 5th St, Loveland CO 80537.

--Doug Van Pelt

"HOME AT LAST" (Video)
- LARRY NORMAN

From the beginning strains of **My Feet Are On The Rock** from the Flevo Festival in Holland to a rousing rendition of **Country Church**, which was filmed in a church, this video is filled with quality footage that's pleasurable viewing all the way through.

Some really warm and honest clips of Larry, his wife, and child show up, along with some clever color artwork--creating an up-close and personal video, making it an ideal companion for the album of the same title, which was the flavor of that album. Every song from "Home At Last" is covered here, including all the short little vignettes. Larry's vocal performance throughout is good.

The first few songs were filmed at the prestigious Flevo Festival with Sweden's Q-Stone as the competent back-up band, which also included saxophonist Dan Michaels (who plays with The Choir), and Larry's brother Charley. There was some good rockin' that night.

The rest of the video was filmed in a medium-sized church with a black choir, band, and orchestra backing him up. Otto-bootzman's Beki Hemingway makes a cameo appearance, singing the female lead to **Letters To The Church**. Although a unique setting for a rock performance, the video's only weak points come in the church footage. The scenery gets tiring at times visually, while the musical performance remained good. The song **Here Comes The King** has some less-than-the-best camera angles of the choir's feet, microphone stands, and the stage floor.

Overall, the video acts as a good documentary slice-of-life look at this portion of Larry's life and music. To order, send $19.98 (plus 2.20 postage--foreign orders write for postage fees) to: Phydeaux, 1808 Hector Lane, Santa Cruz CA 95062.

--Doug Van Pelt

SWORDBEARER (Demo)

Praise the Lord! Here's a crunchin' power metal band with a female vocalist--who doesn't sound cheesy! I knew it was possible, yet we haven't seen a lot of female vocalists who really have been assets to their metal band's sound, rather than something to bear with. Ransom and some of Rosanna's Raiders' ballads work, because the songs are written for the vocalist's range, and the vocalist doesn't depart from that too far. Such is the key for Teresa Stevens, who sings in a predominantly low register. The producer made her voice sound nice and thick in the studio, which helped too.

The band really exhibits some tightness and metallic guitar aggression. Steve Murdock's solo in **Light In Your Night** is pretty cool. The songwriting lacks a little bit in spots, like the trite/basic melody during the chorus in **Truth Of His Love**. Lyrically, though, the band does a creative job. **Whosoever** is the first song I've ever heard that uses John 3:16 in its entirety in the chorus. **He Blues Me Away** is a very clever title to the band's bluesy rocker about redemption. Since the band is from Utah, I looked for a song about the Mormon cult, but didn't find any. The songs here, though, have enough about the Truth to expose any counterfeit.

Fans of Barnabas should really dig this effort. I think it shows lots of potential, and isn't something to ignore at this point either. Not great, but definitely decent. For ordering info, write: Swordbearer c/o Calvary Chapel, 3104 Porter Ave, Ogden UT 84403.

--Doug Van Pelt

"CHANGE THE WORLD"
- KINGS 'N' PRIESTS

Here's some tasty commercial metal with some sweet guitar tones a la Charvel-Jackson guitars, Mesa Boogie amps, and Ken Arnold's fingers. I haven't heard an unsigned band tackle a commercial/melodic style like this in a long time. These guys are hot! Fans of Angelica will think that Arnold and Dennis Cameron went to the same school of song-writing. Handling all vocals himself as well, he shows his voice is as good as his playing. Now, this tape won't rival a Dokken or a Scorpions sonically, but it shows that Arnold knows how to pen a hook.

Highlights include: **Jealous**, with its big BGV's; **Paradise**, with its slower, plodding pace and melodic guitar leads; and **Highway To Heaven**, with its explosive solos. In case you haven't noticed, this is the kind of music I really like--heavy melodic! I would have to recommend this tape!

To order, send $7.75 to: 4316 Toledo Ave S, Robbinsdale MN 55422.

--Doug Van Pelt

"FRONT ROW" (Videos)
MARGARET BECKER
CHARLIE PEACOCK

Jumping on the MTV "Unplugged" idea (which is a good one), Sparrow recorded and filmed live acoustic sets by four of its artists: Charlie, Margaret, Steven C. Chapman, and Michael Card. I was fortunate enough to attend the concerts by Chuck and Marge, which turned out to be very warm, personal, and intense performances.

Margaret's performance included her acoustic guitar, the acoustic guitar of Rich Hordinski, and Margaret's powerful voice! When I say powerful, I mean it! It was actually spine-tingling at times to hear her voice go booming through the room, holding precise notes. One great example of this was the line "I'll wait for you" at the end of the chorus to **Find Me**. Awesome! This bare, stripped-down approach to good music forces the song to stand on its own arrangement and the voice of the performer--both of which worked in Margaret's case. Other highlights were: **Streets Of Innocence**, **Never For Nothing**, **This Is My Passion**, and **Come On In**, which she began by explaining how hard it is for us to forgive ourselves--even after God has forgiven us.

Charlie Peacock has already proved his strength in the acoustic arena by his stellar performances of the acoustic trio in the past, such as his Cornerstone '89 performance and "West Coast Diaries 2." With Charlie were two pros who always go the extra mile in performing live: Jim Abegg and Vince Ebo.

The video offers so much, because being able to see Charlie's expressive face adds much more depth to his songs, which often talk so personally about suffering. One thing I was amazed about was Jim Abegg's acoustic guitar playing. He picked and stretched those strings like an electric lead player--Hot moves on a hot night.

Any fan of Charlie would definitely want this video, which includes stuff from his "West Coast Diaries" tapes, like **Psalm 51** and **Unchain My Soul**. Those who aren't yet fans of Charlie ought to check it out, so you can see how special this man is.

--Doug Van Pelt

"LIVE STOMACH" - THE CLEAR

Fans of scaterd-few's zany, reckless punk will probably like this CD of rabid tunes. Like me, though, most Christians will be so put off by the use of "coarse language" in a few places here, like "...you don't give a s***..." (in **Temptation**), that they won't give The Clear many repeated listenings. It's true, sometimes believers may strain at gnats (cussing) and swallow camels (greed, pride, hatred), but the use of "unwholesome words" in art is usually offensive to me. Most Christians buy Christian music because they want to be edified, not be brought down by hearing cuss words.

The music here is done well. To order, send $15 to: Rad Rocker's Emporium, 370 Greentree Lane, Milan MI 48160.

--Doug Van Pelt

"COMING AGAIN" - BLOODY CROSS

Here's a thrash feast on compact disc that includes plenty of high speed playing and black and white, no compromise lyrics. Guitarist Thomas Stahl, bassist Roman Rothen, and drummer Markus Hauth lay down a pretty tight foundation, upon which vocalist Edgar Bich adds his predictable shouting/ growling vocals. The snare sound on this album is very unique. It sounds very thick, as if the drum heads were leather rawhide. Stahl's

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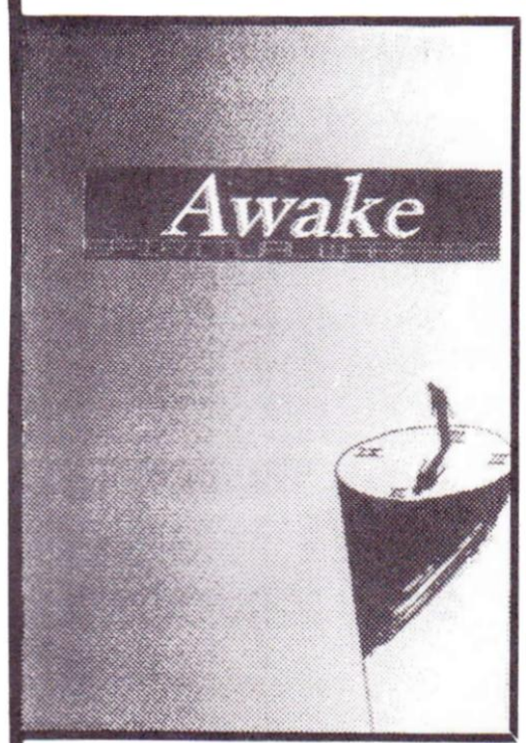

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leads leave a tiny bit to be desired, yet he still wails and goes after it. His rhythms are definitely up to snuff.

I don't know what else to say, except that "those who like thrash will dig this disc." Then you can hear the horsewhip speed as the band flails, lambastes, whumps, beats, batters, pounds, pommels, punches, thwacks, slaps, smacks, crushes, and wails.

For ordering info, write: PO Box 35, 7535 Koenigsbach, Germany.

--Doug Van Pelt

CHAGALL GUEVARA

This psychedelic and post-modern band made up of Christian music's frustrated elite--Steve Taylor, Dan Perkins (guitar), Lynn Nichols (guitar), Michael Mead (drums), and Wade Jaynes (bass). The music here is eclectic and very dance-able stuff. Fans of the 77's should love it. The production is great.

Notable songs that jump right out to me are: **Escher's World**, and **Murder In The Big House**.

--Doug Van Pelt

"CONCEPTION OF LIGHT" - EMBRYO CHRYSALYS

Here's a 6-song tape of competent power metal with some excursions into progressive and thrash. The lyrics are straightforward messages about the differences between dark and light.

The production is clean enough to hear the songs, yet still below album-quality. An above-average custom metal tape.

To order, send $6 to: 808 N Summit Cr, Blue Springs MO 64015.

--Doug Van Pelt

"PERSON TO PERSON" - BRAD SMITH

Do you like the pop rock of Michael W. Smith? If so, you'll appreciate the clean-sounding times from Brad Smith (no relation).

--Doug Van Pelt

DigHayZoose (Demo)

When I looked at the low-budget TDK Normal Bias tape with no case, I thought, "Oh great! This is gonna be horrible sounding." But...I was surprised. Recorded here is some halacious tunes with a deep groove and a crunchin' funky flavor. Hot stuff! These guys rock! If these guys continue this stuff, they could really get some major attention. Think of these guys as a more commercial scaterd-few. They've got the same energy and go-for-it abandon, yet their hooks are bigger and grooves are deeper.

Cries of "I forgive you for what you've done" grace this tape with a right-on lyrical direction (although no lyric sheet was provided, meaning no in-depth lyrical analysis. The words are decipherable, fortunately.)

This tape is awesome! They could easily be the first band to break out of the Kansas City musician's fellowship (CRUSADE). For ordering info, write: 200 N Withers Rd #K, Liberty MO 64068-1157.--Doug Van Pelt

ZADOX (Demo)

This young new band from Dallas used to be known as ArchAngel, but recently changed its name to Zadox, which in Greek means "righteousness." The six tunes here sound somewhat muddy due to the mix and crowded song arrangements. The music is best called power metal--in the Judas Priest vein.

Down To The Bone is one of the crunchiest, with its gang vocal chorus--reminding me a bit of The Galactic Cowboys. For ordering info, write: Mike Connelly, 9150 Fair Oakes #916, Dallas TX 75231.

--Doug Van Pelt

"SEER" - LAMB

Lamb returns to its Messianic rock roots, which, borrowing from the ethnic sounds of Israeli music--also known as World Music.

It's dance-able pop music... Pretty cool stuff.
--Doug Van Pelt

"WITHIN REACH" - RICK CUA

Cua's seventh album is produced this time by John and Dino Elefante. Most of these tunes are great bubble gum rock tunes for 11 to 14 year old girls. The lyrics do a great job of hitting right where they live. In other words, there ain't much here for the typical Heaven's Metal reader.

Some of the more rockin' numbers, like **Big Gun**, and **Diamond Girl**, where co-written by Bob Halligan, who also wrote **Breakin' The Law** for Judas Priest and is releasing his own pop debut album this year on Atco Records. There's no loud 'n' brazen rockers here that compare to Cua and Halligan's previous work together on the "You're My Road" album.
--Doug Van Pelt

"SIFTORIAE DRAMATIS" - FRAT RATS

This is an unusual tape. Side One has a garage-style, garage production, sloppy straight-ahead rocker, called **Pray**; and a saxophone-led ballad called **Wendepunkt**. Side Two features a history of the band's music or possibly a history of Christian rock. (It's hard to tell, because it's narrated in German.)

To order, send $5 to: Frat Rats, 1m Grund 3, D-7860 Schopfheim, Fahrnau, Germany.
--Doug Van Pelt

"REAL LOUD TUNES" - OVERDRIVE

Overdrive returns with a 4-song collection of real heavy tunes. A standout cut is **Light A Candle For Me**, a moving epic about the Lord's last moments on earth, and His admonition to let your light shine before men. These five dudes have recorded (on 24 track) an above-average power metal offering.

Lyrically, Overdrive expresses its urgency for the lost to be found. I think the band has made a grave mistake in the lyrics of the song **When The "Saints" Go Marching In** (To Hell). It's easy to see that the point they're making is about people who say they are Christians but don't know God--they will depart and burn in hell. But, there are going to be no saints in hell! A saint is an adopted child of God, the bride of Christ. To say that a saint is going to hell is a contradiction in terms. That's like saying "the church is apostate." What an apostate statement! The "church" is a term we use too loosely (and "saint" too, in this case). We ought to remember that there is a remnant on this earth, the bride of Christ, a holy nation. She has been justified and entrusted with the Holy Spirit. God lives in this bride. She ain't gonna go to hell, so don't say that she is. What would a non-believer think upon hearing "When the saints go marching into hell?" What kind of signal does that send? (Gosh, I can't ever remember elaborating this much on a lyric that I disagreed with. I guess I'm real sensitive about the church--She's getting attacked so much lately.)

For ordering info, write: PO Box 11153, Blacksburg VA 24062-1153.
--Doug Van Pelt

WHITERAY (Demo)

Whiteray's follow up to "The First Sin" displays 8 more reasons why this band won the New Talent band contest at Metal Fest '90 by crowd votes. These guys know how to pen a punchin' progressive metal tune. The production doesn't match up to major label quality, but the songs are pretty strong on their own. Some weak points, like the extended scream in **The Haunting** and another scream in the monotonous **The Devil Made Me Do It**, show up occasionally.

We're Not Afraid To Die is an intense mosher, which would rival any Anthrax tune any day. It smokes!

For ordering info, write: 5307 Matterhorn Dr, Louisville KY 40216.
--Doug Van Pelt

THE KEYS (2-Song Demo)

Here's a sample of some of The Key's rockin' tunes with a nice, clear mix. You can hear everything laid down here--which is a nice surprise in the custom tape world. The music is a little heavier than The Altar Boys and a little more serious than The Ramones. Cool stuff in a post-punk/post-modern vein.

Lyrics like "I wish I could make you see what Jesus means to me/ I wish I could make you understand that Jesus is more than just another great man," (**I Wish**) seem to reveal an honest band with open hearts to the Lord.

Cool, non-heavy stuff. For ordering info, write: Harris, 2492 De Voe Terr #5I, Bronx NY 10468.
--Doug Van Pelt

CHOSEN GENERATION (Demo)

Here's a six-song collection of light, jazzy praise and exhortations. The lyrics are almost all scripture and the music is very light. To order, send $7 to: Eric Rose, 6036 Forrest Hollow Ln, Springfield VA 22152.
--Doug Van Pelt

"DANGEROUSLY LIVE"
-BARNGROVER/LIGHT

This band recently backed up Larry Norman on a tour, which means they must be adept at the blues. This tape was recorded live to 4-track while on tour last summer. The sound quality came out very good for a live recording of this size.

The sound this group comes up with consists of electric and acoustic guitars, bass, drums, as well as a saxophone. **Days Like These** has the same urgent riff that Bride's **Everybody Knows My Name**. Interesting... It's kind of an old riff anyway. I'm sure both parties borrowed it from some old blues ditty.

Fans of Clapton and Larry Norman might really dig this authentic and somewhat gritty helping of blues--especially since the band does a rendition of **Crossroads**! The highlight is **The World Turns On.**

For ordering info, write: CRS Records, 2619A England, Huntington Beach CA 92648.
--Doug Van Pelt

VALIANT (Demo)

Here's a rough quality 3-song sampling of a talented singer and songwriter named Michael Lunsford. There's a long ballad, **Love Will Find A Way**, that has a good feel to it. The two rockers: **Straight & Narrow**, and **Danger** are the highlights here, filled with energy. **Danger** is a very good melodic metal tune with nice vocals, reminiscent of a Mike Lee or Don Dokken. **Straight & Narrow** takes a Southern Rock sass 'n' grit approach to good effect.

This artist has potential. For ordering info, write: 7930 National Service Rd, Greensboro NC 27809.
--Doug Van Pelt

TRIAL (Demo)

Here's an 8-song tape by a young band out of Kerrville, Texas. There's some good ideas and aggressive sounds here, but they weren't translated on tape well--like the hook in **Wicked Tongues**, which suffers from bad guitar tones, or even the hammer-on solo starting **Not A Drug?** The arrangements feature some unimaginative and predictable chord phrasing, especially in **God Bless The Children**--showing that Trial has a lot of growth in front of them.

The best part of the tape is the good, edifying messages, like the chorus of "Rejoice in trials!" that is shouted with gang vocals to bring the point home.

To order, send $6 to: Jamie Worden, 1208 Barbara Ann, Kerrville TX 78028.
--Doug Van Pelt

"FOREVER NOW" (7" Single)

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-Notebored, Aug. 1989

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-Banzai Magazine Readers Poll

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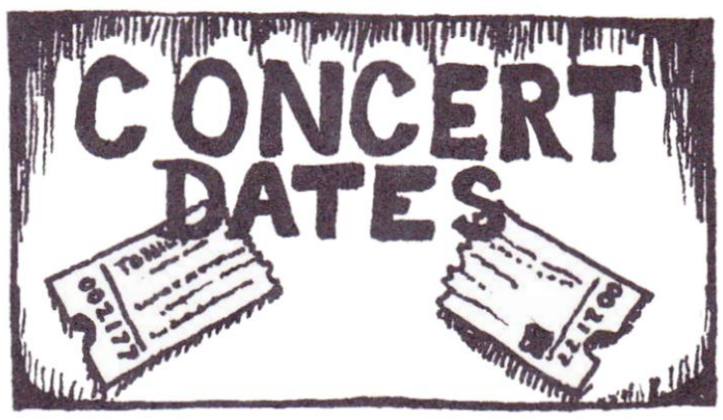

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5/25 Port Angeles WA
5/26 Ilwaco WA
5/27 Richland WA
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5/30 Pocatello ID
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6/18 Boiling Springs NC
6/28 Lancaster PA
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5/11 Minneapolis MN
5/23 to 6/3 Stutensee, Germany
7/5 Chicago IL
8/10 San Bernadino CA

TRYTAN

3/22 Minneapolis MN
3/23 Minneapolis MN

METAL RADIO CHART

Here are the TOP 20 METAL SINGLES (reprinted courtesy The CCM Update) as of February 11th:

1 Everybody Knows My Name
Bride
2 Sacrifice
Crystavox
3 Philosophy Of Man
Greg Minier
4 Rise Up
Seraiah
5 He's Lying To Ya
David Zaffiro
6 Victory Dance
Jet Circus
7 Woodpecker Stomp
Jeff Scheetz
8 23
Deliverance
9 We Are Young, We Are Strong
Holy Soldier
10 Expletive Deleted
Seventh Angel
11 Ark Of Suffering
Tourniquet
12 Minister By Night
Sacred Warrior
13 Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus
Mike Lee
14 Goin' All The Way
Ken Tamplin
15 In The Dark
Creed
16 Walkin' In Faith
Angelica
17 On Judgement Day
Haven
18 It's Love
King's X
19 Run To The Water
Mastedon
20 Rock The Hell Out Of You
Stryper

Courtesy:

THE CCM UPDATE

ROCK/METAL SALES CHART

Here is the new sales chart compiled from over 133 stores, plus 2 mail order companies. It includes the sales of rock and metal for the months of December and January.

1 Beyond Belief
Petra
2 Petra Praise
Petra
3 Weapons Of Our Warfare
Deliverance
4 War & Remembrance
Petra
5 Crank It Up
Mylon & Broken Heart
6 Petra Means Rock
Petra
7 The River
Allies
8 An Axe To Grind
Ken Tamplin & Friends
9 Your Dying Day
Haven
10 Souvenirs
Whiteheart
11 Faith Hope Love
King's X
12 Walkin' By Faith
Angelica
13 Holy Soldier
Holy Soldier
14 The Torment
Seventh Angel
15 Carnival World
Seraiah
16 Step On It
Jet Circus
17 On Fire
Petra
18 Crystavox
Crystavox
19 Lofcaudio
Mastedon
20 This Means War
Petra
21 Swine Flew
One Bad Pig
22 Rock Praise
Various
23 Extraction From Mortality
Believer
24 Circle Slide
The Choir
25 Immigrant's Daughter
Margaret Becker

Reader's Survey

Here is the second survey conducted in Heaven's Metal in its five and a half year history. The answers to these survey questions will help improve the magazine on two major fronts: One, it will give Heaven's Metal much-needed feedback on which features you like or dislike; Two, it will give potential advertisers the demographic information (and reasons) to advertise, which of course helps support the magazine.

We've got a contest going with this survey. Out of the first 75 received, 30 will be randomly chosen to receive a cassette copy of the outstanding Novella debut album courtesy Star Song Records. Survey results need be in by May 15th. Thanks for your participation. Please circle or fill in answer.

1 Name

2 Address

3 City, State, Zip

4 Sex: Male Female

5 Marital Status: Single Married

6 Age: Under 12 12-15 16-19 20-24
25-29 30-34 35-39 Over 40

7 Highest level of education:

Some Primary school Some high school
High school grad Some college College grad
Some grad work Master's Degree

8 Are you considering education at a Christian college?

Yes No

9 Which best describes your occupation:

Artist/Musician Music Industry Pastor
Professional/Mgmnt Teacher/Professor Homemaker
Student Sales Unemployed Other

10 Annual income: Under $10,000 $10,000-14,999
$15,000-19,999 $20,000-29,999 Over $30,000

11 Denominational affiliation: Assemblies Of God
Baptist Catholic Charismatic Lutheran
Methodist "Non-denominational" Pentecostal
Presbyterian Sanctuary Other

12 Favorite style of music :

Thrash/speed Pop metal Rap Other
Power/progressive metal R&B/Urban Rock
Classical Praise/Worship Jazz Pop

13 Other magazines you read: CCM Spin
Notebored Harvest Rock White Throne
Take A Stand Rolling Stone Kerrang!
Campus Life Other

14 How many other people read your copy of Heaven's Metal?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 or more

15 Rate the various features of HM according to their importance to you. (5 = Always read; 4 = Usually read; 3 = Sometimes read; 2 = Don't usually read; 1 = Never read.)

Cartoon	5	4	3	2	1
Band interviews	5	4	3	2	1
Secular band interviews	5	4	3	2	1
Metal Tracks	5	4	3	2	1
Licks & Tricks	5	4	3	2	1
Trading Post	5	4	3	2	1
Radio/Sales Charts	5	4	3	2	1
Pastor Bob	5	4	3	2	1
Letters To Ed	5	4	3	2	1
Concert Dates	5	4	3	2	1
Album Reviews	5	4	3	2	1
Concert Reviews	5	4	3	2	1
Gospel Piece (back page)	5	4	3	2	1
Advertisements	5	4	3	2	1

16 Do you listen to secular music? Sometimes Never
Most of the time

17 Do you play a musical instrument? Which ones?

Piano/Keyboard Horn Guitar Bass Drums

Woodwind Violin/Cello Other

18 I buy mostly: CD's Cassettes

19 I buy most of my Christian music from: Mail-order

Christian bookstore Local record store

20 Name & location of nearest Christian bookstore:

21 How do you rate their selection of rock & metal?

Great Good Okay Bad Stinks

22 Do they carry Heaven's Metal? Yes No

23 How informed are the sales people about rock & metal?

Very informed Somewhat informed Not informed

24 When shopping, what influences your purchase the most?

Demos Displays Posters Other

25 Is there a Christian rock/metal radio show in your area?

Yes & I listen Yes, but I don't listen No

26 How do you find out about upcoming Christian metal concerts?

Radio ads Flyers Word of mouth TV ads

Magazine listings Other

27 On the average, how many people attend these concerts?

50-100 100-200 200-400 400-600 600-1000 1000 plus

28 Rate each of the following according to how much they influence your record buying decisions (5 = great influence; 4 = a lot of influence; 3 = somewhat influential/reinforced my own previous decision; 2 = little influence; 1 = no influence)

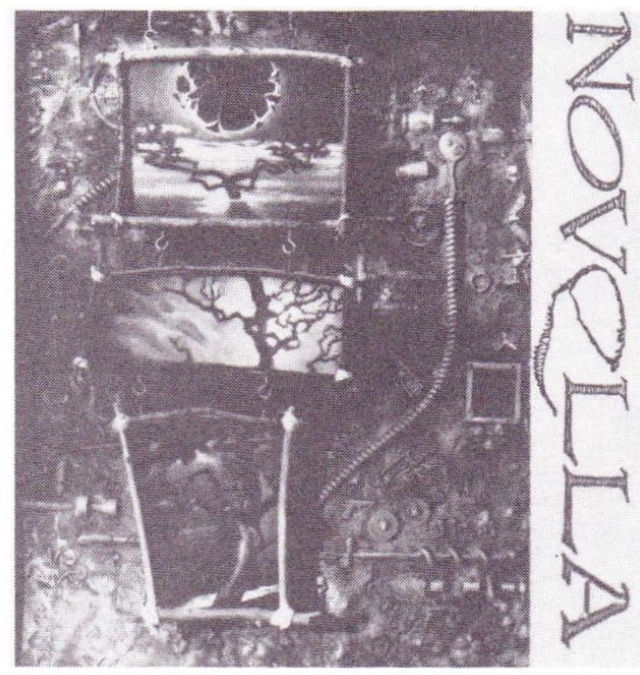
Advertisements	5	4	3	2	1
Album reviews	5	4	3	2	1
Band interviews	5	4	3	2	1

29 What I'd like to see more of in Heaven's Metal:

Artist testimonies Musician/equipment questions

Concert schedules Unsigned bands Color photos

Remember, 30 names will be randomly chosen out of the first 75 surveys that arrive to receive a copy of the new Novella album...so send in yours right away! (Courtesy Star Song Records)



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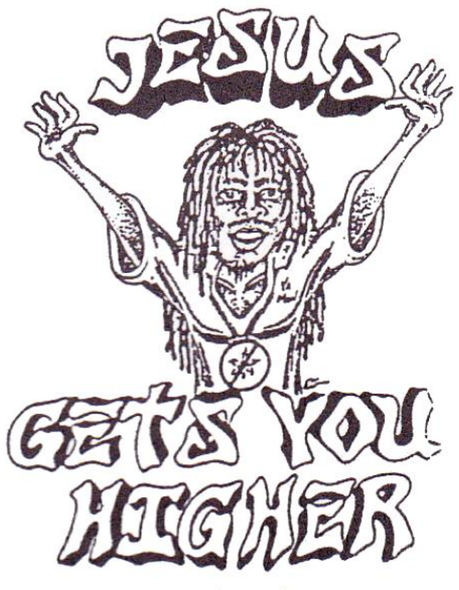

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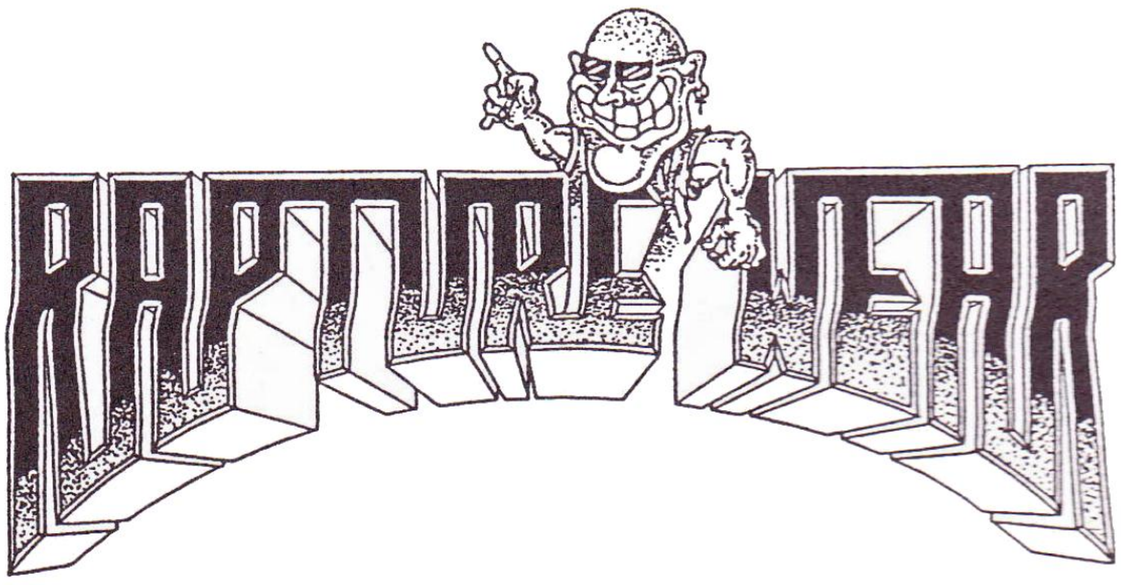

All shirts are XL and 100% cotton (no 50/50 here!). Please make checks out to Scott Will. 'Jesus Get's Me Higher' shirt available in red/yellow/green tie dye for $15.00. Do you know any stores or distributers that will sell Rapture Wear? Let me know!

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WHITECROSS BACKWARDS?

I recently saw Whitecross in Evansville, Indiana and picked up their first CD. On "Seeing Is Believing" and "Nagasake," there are some backwards messages. Now, I don't really think back-masking can hurt you, because who can understand anything said backwards? But, I feel it is something of Satan and that God's men should stay away from this kind of thing, even if it says "Jesus is Lord" backwards. I feel that Christian metal is being attacked enough, and that artists shouldn't give critics more ammunition. I would appreciate it if you could tell me and the readers what Whitecross said on the album and what they say about it now. I know this would interest your readers, and I would like to get to the bottom of it.

--Kyle DeVoe
Smiths Grove, Kentucky

(Ed--I decided to let Rex Carroll of Whitecross answer this one: "The first Whitecross album had three selections with messages. Two were forward, and one was backwards. On the inner sleeve of the record, there were three other clues printed. In all, there were six clues leading to a scripture verse. All of this was designed as a promotional game, where listeners would figure out the clues and, once they solved the puzzle, could send in their answers to their local radio station. Through the station, we were giving away t-shirts, tapes, and CD's. A national drawing out of all those winners was chosen and flown to Chicago to hang out with the band for a day and to see the band live in Chicago. It was all fun, and the clues point to a scripture verse, which was Proverbs 3:5.")

REVIEWZ REVIEW

Congratulations on your status as one of the most influential individuals in the area of "White" metal. As I am sure you realize, with this honor comes a great deal of responsibility. Many fans of Christian alternative music read Heaven's Metal and the "Metal News" section of CCM magazine, and are thus influenced by your opinions.

I am convinced that you have been doing your best to report news associated with Christian metal and to review its major releases and underground recordings. However, in what seems to be an attempt to complete Issue #26 quicker than usual, you obtained the assistance of well-meaning but less-informed reviewers. As a result, nearly every item reviewed was given a "recommended this month" rating. I am sure that they had the best of intentions, but unfortunately they did not get down to basics in their comments and tell the positive and negative aspects of certain albums. Nearly every review ended with a sentence telling the reader to send for or buy that particular recording. I do not read the reviews in order to have someone tell me to buy the item that is being reviewed. I want to know if it is worth giving this certain artist money for their craft. I am very hesitant to purchase any of the material reviewed in #26 that I have not heard, because of these reviews. So, in essence, the reviews were worthless to me.

Please make a stronger attempt to have consistent and practical reviews. My intent is not to insult your staff; it is only to try and aid you in making Heaven's Metal a better magazine.

--Michael Cavin
Rolla, Missouri

(Ed--Thanks for your constructive criticism. You made some very valid points, and it is well received. I'm afraid you hit the nail on the head, suggesting that the quality of the reviews had something to do with attempting to complete the issue quicker than usual. I'm afraid I had to give my reviewer friends and I only a few days--or just a few hours in some cases--to review the projects. That is not good. I hope that you will see an improvement of all the reviews in HM in the future. To help aid you further in your decision to buy a product reviewed, I have always had a "recommended this issue" section at the start of all the reviews, which include the projects that I personally believe are sonically and musically professional enough to consider buying. If a reviewer thought a certain project was great, and I didn't list it here, it gives you kind of a second opinion.)

A GOOD KNIGHT'S VIEW

I must say, the full-color layout looks incredible! I also love the full-color pull-out posters! Good work!

Now, let me address a more disturbing issue. Granted, I'm from western Pennsylvania, so I may be a bit more partial, but I was not merely upset, but appalled at Mr. Knight's review for Sanxtion's "Destination Overdrive."

I have seen Sanxtion perform live, as well as have a copy of the demo, and to Mr. Knight's surprise, I thought the most strongest effort WAS the vocals! Kevin Michaels has one thing going for him: L-U-N-G-S. To say the problem was "pitch" made me think Mr. Knight has been watching too much of the Pittsburgh Pirates on TV. True, "the Christian audience is no longer settling for mediocrity," as Mr. Knight pointed out so vividly. Does this hold true for record reviewers?? Hey, Joey: "Let's work on it and put out the prime!"

I play Sanxtion at least twice a month on my weekly show. I'd say they are the best of the new talent. But, hey, just don't take my word for it. Don't take anybody's word for it. Buy the tape and see for yourself.

--Erik Lane
St. Marys, Pennsylvania

(Ed--When I assigned Joey the Sanxtion tape to review, I did it with the full confidence that he had the credentials to make a reasonable judgment about its quality. I have re-listened to the tape and, while really appreciating the musicianship, I would have to disagree with you. I couldn't say that the vocals were the best part. Someone involved closely with the band called me up and told me that when the vocalist saw that review (in Issue #27), he got righteously angry and went out and sang the best he'd ever sung at a gig that night! I'd say that the review was Joey's honest assessment, which is all I asked of him.)

GREEN BEARS FRUIT

Hey dude! It's the drummer from Trial again! Today I got my letter from Teen Missions International saying that I'm registered to go to Austria. I've just been praying a whole lot about what God wants me to do. (Whether to go on a missions trip to Austria, or continue ministering through the band Trial.) He told me, "Man, even if ya'll get accepted to go to Cornerstone, you are going to Austria. Don't worry, Thomas is a good enough drummer!" Of course, I said, "Ah, man!" But hey, what God says goes, right!! I

think a lot of what opened my ears to hear God was that article you published in Issue #28 by Keith Green. It really spoke to me (Well, actually the Holy Spirit spoke!). Thanks for putting that in there.

--Jamie Wordem
Kerrville, Texas

EXTREMISM

I just got my first issue of Heaven's Metal, and I'm glad I subscribed. When I first got it, I was shocked when I saw Extreme?! Anyway, I read the interview and I really, really liked the way you handled the interview. You know, not too pushy, but not compromising either. Way to go brother! I found Pastor Bob's column and the Dudley Hall interview very spiritually up-building. I would like to see more stuff like that to come.

--Eric Fleming
Bennettsville, South Carolina

Your Issue #28 was interesting to read. I want to discuss the band Extreme. This guy, lead vocalist Gary, needs more than prayer, but a good Jesus Christ-filled friend who shares with him what life, music, and true freedom means. Not someone forcing the Bible down his throat, but a one-on-one Bible study and a testimony of one's life. Witnessing is simply a Christian's testimony of what Christ has delivered them from. So, I encourage anyone with true sincerity to be a good brotherly, godly friend to Gary Cherone. Check out Matthew 7:13,14,21. I believe in what Gary has said. I'm not judging; only trying to do my part as the Holy Spirit tells me. Peace to all!

--Mike Campbell

ARE YOU IN TOON?

...The "cartoons" are not funny. They are downright dorky, cheesy, and dumb. Either improve them or, more to my liking, get rid of them altogether! They are a waste of space!

--Chris Johnson
Warrior, Alabama

YOU ASK 'EM!

I received Issue #23 a couple of days ago. It seems that every issue is better than the last. Great job! The reason I'm writing has been on my mind for a long time. Your review of Mercy Rule could not have been more correct. If the production had been there, it'd be a good solid debut. But, like so many of the albums being released in the Christian market, it was below standards. I was wondering if you would ask your readers to write to the record labels and tell them that we expect good-sounding albums. If these Christian companies expect for us to turn our friends on to Christian metal, they need to give us albums that we aren't too embarrassed to give to them. Most of the albums I wouldn't give to my unsaved friends, and the ones that I would give them are usually groups that are on secular labels. So please ask your readers to write the labels and tell them that we don't want any more sub-standard albums. We deserve better.

--Chuck Hudnell
Goldsboro, North Carolina

SEARCH AND DESTROY?

Whatever happened to the band Philadelphia? I heard they were a rockin' band early on in Christian metal, but I've never seen any of their tapes in any Christian bookstore. Are they still a band? Any recording plans?

--Mark Fuss

(Ed--Philadelphia has just been signed to a new label called New Union Records, from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Maybe we'll see a release by early summer.)

LETTERS 2 BANDS

If you'd like to write your favorite band, here's several addreses that may help you:

ANGELICA: PO Box 325, Renfrew, Ontario, K7V-4A4, CANADA
ARMAGEDDON: PO BOx 8507, Alexandria VA 22306
ARSENAL: 2230 Nursery Rd #I-108, Clearwater FL 33546
BARREN CROSS: PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278
BELIEVER: 221 East Oak St, Palmyra PA 17078
BLOODGOOD: PO Box 6023, Bellevue WA 98008
BRIDE: 295 Churchview Rd, West Point KY 40177
CATALYST: 2390 Sutton Dr, Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221
CHARIZMA: PO Box 7000-222, Palos Verdes Peninsula CA 90274
CREED: Trubauer, Weg 3, 7320 Goppingen, West Germany
CRUCIFIED: PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278
CRYSTAVOX: c/o Regency, 4452 Ocean View, Montrose CA 91020
DELIVERANCE: PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278
DREAMER: 14 Barnes Dr, Ajax, Ontario, L1S-5C5, CANADA
DRIVER: PO Box 406, Somersville CT 06072

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GALACTIC COWBOYS: PO Box 512, Katy TX 77492-0512

GUARDIAN: PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278

HAVEN: PO Box 764, Mt Holly NJ 08060

HOLY SOLDIER: PO Box 7000-123, Palos Verdes Peninsula CA 90274

JET CIRCUS: Box 3068, S-400, 10 Gothenburg, Sweden

KING'S X: PO Box 512, Katy TX 77492-0512

LEGEND: 715 Apple Court, Nashville TN 37211

MAGDALLAN: PO Box 91182, Los Angeles CA 90009

MASTEDON: 24681 La Plaza, Suite 210, Dana Point CA 92629

NOVELLA: 612 High Mountain Road, Franklin Lakes NJ 07417

ONE BAD PIG: PO Box 16137, Austin TX 78761

PARADOX: 2641 Nacogdoches, San Antonio TX 78217

RANSOM: 14140 E. Alondra Blvd, Ste C, Santa Fe Springs CA 90670

REZ: 4707 N. Malden, Chicago IL 60640

SACRAMENT: 738 Primos Ave, Primos PA 19018

SACRED WARRIOR: PO BOx 88773, Carol Stream IL 60188

SCARLET RAYNE: W250 S4461 Center Rd, Waukesha WI 53186

scaterd-few: c/o Wingless Foe, 5654 Cahuenga Bl #523, N. Hollywood CA 91601

JEFF SCHEETZ: 11020 King St, STe 350, Overland Park KS 66210

SERAIAH: PO Box 1192, Marion IN 46952

SEVENTH ANGEL: c/o Dave Williams, 74 Witley Ave, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63-4DW, England

SEVENTH SEAL: PO Box 5000093, Palmdale CA 93550

STRYPER: PO Box 1045, Cypress CA 90630

TORN FLESH: Rt. 1, Box 612, Chesapeake OH 45619

TOURNIQUET: PO Box 4171, Burbank CA 91503

TRYTAN: c/o Advent Productions, 2963 Bernice St, Lansing IL 60438

UNDERCOVER: c/o Broken Records, PO Box 2556, Chino CA 91708

VENGEANCE RISING: PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278

WHITECROSS: PO Box 9191, Waukegan IL 60079

X-SINNER: PO Box 910, Lakewood CA 90714-0910

The Musician's Quill

"TRUST"

By Michael Elliott

In the past year, I have been very fortunate to be a part of the band Whitecross. When I was first given the opportunity to travel with the guys, I had the usual, "first real tour" excitement flowing through my blood. I was told that we would visit over seven countries in one year. Yeap! My dreams of touring in a Christian band were about to come true.

During the first part of the tour, I had to learn to deal with my own immaturity as a live drummer and learn that things couldn't always go my way. Along with that, I had to learn to live with three total strangers.

Well, as time went on, we all became good friends. Rex (Carroll) and myself would sit and talk about everything from John Bonham to world politics, while Scott (Wenzel) was jammin' the headset and Rick (Armstrong) was catchin' some major Z's.

Throughout the year I had to learn a very important lesson, "trust." I can't say that it was either a fun, or an easy lesson to learn. The one thing that I can say is that through it all, God has made me a lot stronger.

I feel that the most important thing to remember is that when you put your trust in God, He has everything under control. A scripture that Scott frequently quotes that supports this comes from Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding." (NIV) The part, "Lean not on your understanding," is a very vital part to remember when things go wrong or someone that you may have trusted has let you down.

I personally sometimes don't understand why things go the way they do, until I have gone before the Lord with a broken spirit and asked the question, "God, why?" Then the Lord will show me that the way He has for me is so much better than what I wanted.

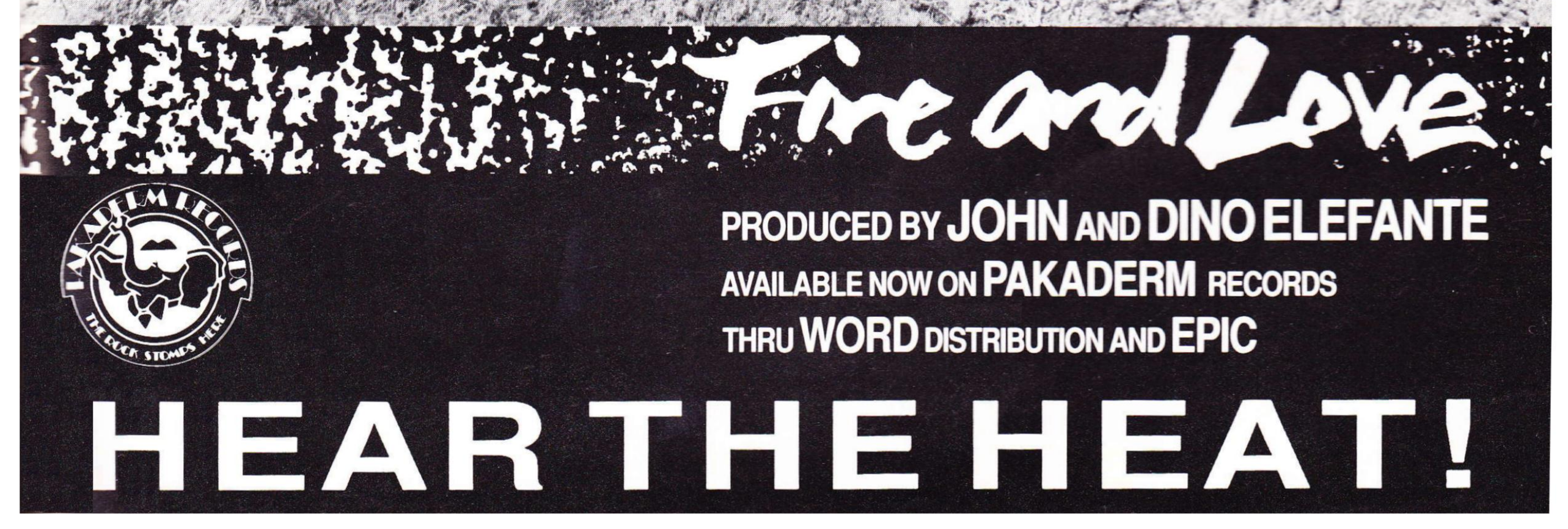
I remember one particular time when I was really bummed out about some things and Rex was trying to lift me up a little. We talked for awhile, then he reminded me of a really cool scripture found in Deuteronomy 7:9, "The Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands." (NIV) You see, the cool thing about God is that He is faithful to His people, and we can put all of our trust and faith in Him.

To sum this all up, just let me say that, God is God. He is still in control and He cares for us and loves us so much. There is not one single problem too big for Him to handle, if we will just trust in Him and serve Him with an open heart, He will never let us down.

--Michael Elliot

Photo by Paula Morrison

GUARDIAN



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FAITH

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11 lists a Hall of Fame of faith. These are men and women who lived godly lives and did great things for God (Who God did great things through). Faith spurns action. A passionate conviction in things unseen prompts action. When you have conviction, it gives you the inspiration to act, the strength to continue when perspiration comes, and the motivation to continue when everything around you is screaming to stop. Faith is the reason the impossible is accomplished.

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:1-3)

The cloud of witnesses that God is talking about here is the "Hall of Faith" members. The Greek word used for witness here is the root for the English word "martyr," and means testifiers. Since we have these great men and women of God that have been motivated by deep conviction to do the remarkable things God set before them, we should prepare ourselves to be the same kind of people. We can start this preparation by laying aside every obstacle or entangling distraction. The things of this world, the things of the flesh, pull us away and slow us down in the race that we are running.

The race we are running is a relationship with God. Jesus is the beginning of the race (He starts it for us); He is the motivation or object of hope and source of endurance in the middle of the race; and He is the reward or prize given to those who finish the race. The faith that we may or may not have is given to us by Jesus. He is the author of faith. He invented it, not the "prosperity preachers" on t.v. "Faith is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) Jesus is the perfecter of faith as well, measuring out to us more cupfuls of passionate conviction of things not seen when we are pouring every bit of faith into our endurance-testing trial.

The whole key to faith is "fixing our eyes on Jesus." In our minds, we have a set of eyes, an imagination, a "mental movie screen" as it were. When we see with these eyes what we can't see with our physical eyes, we are fixing our eyes on something. When we look to Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of our faith, the One who will never leave us or forsake us, we can keep from becoming weary and giving up in the race.

The biggest reason for faith, according to this passage, is to endure hardship in our obedient walk to great accomplishments for God. Jesus, "for the joy set before Him endured the cross." He despised the shame, and endured "such hostility by sinners against Himself." In this light, we can see that faith is much more something to be used to endure suffering, rather than to be used to conjure up a Cadillac for our own pleasure.

By this I don't mean to blast all the so-called "prosperity teachers." God may be trying to reveal something to us through these people. Don't discount everything they say just because you hear some error come out of their mouths. Faith is important, and we needn't get side-tracked by fixing our eyes on something or someone else. Fix our eyes upon Jesus.

Consider Jesus and all the suffering He went through. He rubbed people, especially self-righteous "religious" people, the wrong way. He travelled against the flow. He endured hostility. He let the shame, insults and curses people hurled at Him slide off Him like "water off a duck's back." He set joy before Himself and endured the pain it took to obtain that joy. He walked in a welcome obedience through the mightiest of trials. When we follow in His footsteps, don't be surprised when the world hates us. If they hated the teacher, they will surely hate the disciples as well. We will be going against the grain of this world, but think ahead to where we are going...and Who we are going to!

Don't grow weary in doing good. We have a great high priest (Jesus Himself) who can sympathize with our weakness. If we know that Jesus has gone through trials like ours--and even worse--it makes it a little easier to endure, and gives a little more motivation to keep fighting "the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith." So look, look upon Jesus. If you keep your eyes on Him, you will be given the faith to carry on.

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